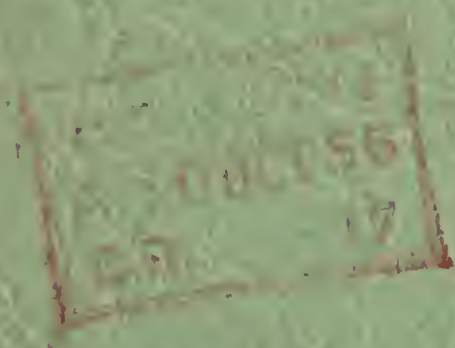


Library

CENTRAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED
DISTRICTS (M. O. H.) JOINT COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Public Health Departments
for the Year 1955

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. Douglas Cooper, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Districts :

Dursley Rural District	Nailsworth Urban District
Stroud Rural District	Stroud Urban District
Thornbury Rural District	

INDEX

DURSLEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Part I	...	...	...	...	PAGE 5
Part II	...	...	...	...	18

STROUD RURAL DISTRICT.

Part I	...	...	...	...	38
Part II	...	...	...	...	45

THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

Part I	...	...	...	...	58
Part II	...	...	...	...	70

NAILSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Part I	...	...	...	...	93
Part II	...	...	...	...	96

STROUD URBAN DISTRICT

Part I	...	...	...	...	105
Part II	...	...	...	...	112

CENTRAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICTS
(M.O.H.) JOINT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Ninth Annual Report for the Rural Districts of Dursley and Thornbury and my First Annual Report for the Rural District of Stroud and the Urban Districts of Nailsworth and Stroud, as required under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and as directed by the Ministry of Health in Circular 17/55 of the 23rd November, 1955.

The new Joint M.O.H. Committee decided at their first meeting that rather than have separate Annual Reports for each Authority, it would be more convenient for those concerned to have a combined report for all the Authorities comprising the new Joint Area. This was a rather difficult venture on the first occasion as the Central Gloucestershire United Districts (M.O.H.) Order was only confirmed by the Ministry on the 1st December, 1955, and therefore I was the Medical Officer of Health of three of the Districts for a very short period during that year.

The Combined Report should prove very useful in comparing the work of one District with another but it should not be assumed, if this is done, that the problems in each District are similar in nature. It may prove useful in future years to abbreviate the Report by having combined tables for each District of statistics and other statutory returns.

During 1955 there was no major outbreak of Infectious Disease, with the exception of the biennial epidemic of Measles which occurred in all the Districts. Four cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in Stroud R.D. and three cases in Dursley R.D. Whooping Cough seemed to be more prevalent in the Stroud Areas and it is to be hoped that now the County Council have decided to recommend that all Child Welfare Centres carry out Whooping Cough Vaccination that the mothers will take the opportunity of protecting their children against this infection, which is too often regarded as of little significance. In Thornbury Rural District there was a mild epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the Berkeley-Sharpness area. This was kept under control through the valuable assistance of the Bristol Laboratory. None of the patients were allowed to return to school or work until their nose and throat swabs were negative for Haemolytic Streptococcus and all the close contacts in the affected households were also swabbed and kept from school or work, if these swabs

proved positive. All of the children in the junior schools of the Area were examined during the epidemic and some 200 children had their noses and throats swabbed as a preventive measure. It is interesting to record that a number of carriers were discovered during this survey who had no symptoms whatever. When these were isolated from school and treated, the epidemic appeared to subside.

It is gratifying to me that at long last the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have decided on a policy in relation to Slum Clearance during future years. All the Districts in this Joint Area are preparing to carry out the instructions of the Ministry and it is to be hoped that the programmes formulated by each Health Department will be carried out as scheduled.

I often feel that the word "slum" is a misnomer in relation to the type of property that one has to deal with in a rural community. Many of these cottages do not look like slums externally but when one takes into consideration the dampness, defects, lack of amenities, etc., there is no doubt that they should be dealt with under the Act. However a better name for this type of property might be an unfit dwelling or sub-standard property. I think there would be less antagonism towards the Councils and their Officers from landlords or the general public if this terminology was used instead of "slum property".

I am very pleased that so much progress has been made during the past year in supplying the southern portion of Thornbury Rural District with a mains water supply. Many of the farmers would have been in dire straits during the drought months of this year if the new supply had not been available, as many of the wells and springs formerly used had dried up.

The water supply situation in the Dursley Rural District has improved considerably during the year, with the additional supplies from the Gloucester Corporation and the West Gloucestershire Water Company. However, the Comprehensive Scheme is still most necessary because of the lack of adequate storage facilities all over the Area.

There are many parts of the Combined Districts which still require main drainage and for which a good case has been made out on Public Health grounds. Many of these Schemes have been presented to the Ministry and have been left on the shelf pro tem, due to the national financial situation. It is to be hoped that this delay is only of a temporary nature and that the Ministry will soon see their way to grant these much needed Schemes for sewerage areas which lack this essential amenity.

It is encouraging to see that at least two Schemes have been allowed to proceed during the year, i.e. the Scheme for the sewerage of the village of Bisley in the Stroud Rural District and the Scheme for sewerage of the town of Berkeley in the Thornbury Rural District. Both these Schemes should be completed in 1956.

One could make many other comments in an introduction of this kind but I know that your Chief Sanitary Inspectors have made special mention of important points in the course of their Reports.

It therefore remains for me to thank the various Chairmen and Members of the Public Health Committees and Councils for their support and encouragement during the year.

I would also like to thank the various Officers of the Public Health Departments and other Officers of the Councils for their assistance and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. DOUGLAS COOPER.

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of:

The Dursley Rural District Council,

The Stroud Rural District Council,

The Thornbury Rural District Council,

The Nailsworth Urban District Council,

The Stroud Urban District Council.

Dursley Rural District Council

Chairman :

B. V. PROUT, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

G. BILBRUCK, Esq.

Clerk of the Council :

H. A. PATE, Esq.

Councillors :

Mrs. M. Evans	J. S. Eley
C. A. Garn	R. W. Little
E. D. Webb	Mrs. J. Chismon
E. Jones	D. Moss
P. W. Baston	O. E. H. Hill
G. M. Montgomery	Brig. K. F. W. Dunn, C.B.E.
L. P. Selby Robinson	Brig. Sir Alan Durand, BART, M.C.
L. G. C. Townsend, J.P.	W. A. Bruton
A. F. Durn	F. C. Ford
W. J. Edmonds	H. Leach, J.P.
The Rev. Dr. T. A. Ryder, PH.D.,	C. A. Pearce, O.B.E.
B.SC., F.G.S., F.R.MET.S.	L. A. Vaisey
The Rev. Canon W. H. Thomas, M.A.	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. DOUGLAS COOPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector :

H. J. DIMERY, A.I.A.S., M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector : T. B. CHAFFE, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector : C. W. R. FISHER, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector : L. S. SCOURFIELD, M.S.I.A.

(From 1st February, 1955)

Pest Officer : C. H. HILL

Public Health Department Clerk : Miss M. C. LOVELL

PART 1.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

No important change has taken place in the nature of the chief trades carried out in the District. They are :

1. Agriculture and Allied Trades.
2. Braid and Loom Elastic and Smallwares.
3. Flour Mill.
4. Baking.
5. General Engineering.
6. Electrical Engineering
7. Carpet Manufacturing.
8. Cloth Manufacturing.
9. Paper Pulping Mills.
10. Fibre Box Manufacturers.
11. Wood Turneries.

2. STATISTICS, 1955.

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	...	...	26,905 acres
Population	...	...	17,140
No. of inhabited properties	...	...	5,504
No. of inhabitants per property	...	...	3.114
Rateable Value	...	...	£79,404
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	£309
Number of Council Houses	...	...	1,285
Number of Requisitioned Houses	...	...	Nil
Percentage of Council Houses	...	...	23.35

INHABITED PROPERTIES.

Houses	...	...	...	5,096
Farms	...	...	...	169
Houses and Shops	...	...	...	166
Public Houses	...	...	...	50
Caravans	...	...	...	23

TOTAL 5,504

Percentage of population served by Main Water 98%
 Percentage of population served by Modern Sewers 73%
(includes Council Houses connected to small disposal plants)

VARYING POPULATIONS OF DURSLEY RURAL DISTRICT

1901	...	...	..	11,636
1911	...	...	...	12,233
1921	...	...	...	12,560
1931	...	...	...	13,217
1938	...	...	...	14,600
1939	...	...	...	16,122
1946	...	...	...	16,220
1949	...	...	...	16,870
1950	...	...	...	17,080
1951	...	...	...	16,985
1952	...	...	...	17,020
1953	...	...	...	17,050
1954	...	...	...	17,070
1955	...	...	...	17,140

(b) EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	130	116	246
Illegitimate	3	6	9
Total	133	122	255

Percentage of Boys to Girls born: 52.2 : 47.8

Crude Birth Rate: 14.87 per 1,000 estimated Mid-year Home Population.
Birth Rate, England and Wales:

15.0 per 1,000 estimated Mid-year Home Population.

Comparability Factor for Births in this Area: — 1.07

Therefore Corrected Birth Rate:

$14.87 \times 1.07 = 15.91$ per 1,000 estimated Mid-year Home Population

STILL BIRTHS

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	1	2	3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Mid-year Total Population — 0.17

Still Birth Rate, England and Wales per 1,000 estimated Mid-year
Home Population. — 0.35

Still Births (per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births) — 11.62

Still Births, England and Wales per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births — 23.2

DEATHS

Number of Deaths registered in Dursley Rural District ... 187
105 of these were Males and 82 Females.

The average age of Male Deaths in the District during the year 64.90 years

The average age of Female Deaths in the District during the year 73.35 years

Average Age of all Deaths during the year 68.61 years

Death Rate for England and Wales. 11.7 per 1,000 Home Population

Crude Death Rate in Dursley Rural District:

10.76 per 1,000 estimated Mid-year Home Population

Comparability Factor for Deaths in this Area: 0.96

Therefore Corrected Death Rate: $10.76 \times 0.96 = 10.32$ per 1,000

Percentage of Deaths in Hospital: 21%

DEATHS IN HOSPITAL.

Bristol Royal Infirmary	...	...	3 cases
Stroud General Hospital	...	...	1 case
Frenchay Hospital	...	...	2 cases
Berkeley Hospital	...	...	8 cases
Gloucester City Maternity Hospital	...	...	2 cases
Southmead General Hospital	...	...	3 cases
Gloucester Royal Hospital	...	...	9 cases
Cossham Memorial Hospital	...	...	1 case
City General Hospital, Gloucester	...	...	6 cases
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London	...	...	1 case
Cheltenham Hospital	...	...	2 cases
Tetbury and District Hospital	...	...	1 case
Snowdon Road Hospital, Bristol.	...	...	1 case

TOTAL: 40 cases

MONTHS OF THE YEAR IN WHICH DEATHS TOOK PLACE.

Month	Deaths that occurred within the District	Deaths that occurred in hospital or while temporarily resident outside	Total
January	17	3	20
February	10	1	11
March	17	5	22
April	11	4	15
May	11	6	17
June	14	3	17
July	8	3	11
August	8	4	12
September	6	4	10
October	8	6	14
November	12	4	16
December	19	3	22
	141	46	187

This table again shows that July, August and September are the months in which the lowest number of deaths occur and the worst months are December, January and March.

LONGEVITY

AGE AT DEATH

0	—	1 year	5
1	—	10 years	1
10	—	20 years	0
20	—	30 years	1
30	—	40 years	3
40	—	50 years	4
50	—	60 years	24
60	—	70 years	41
70	—	80 years	52
80	—	90 years	45
90	—	100 years	11

As a matter of interest 8 old ladies died in their 90's compared to 3 old men.

The oldest person to die in the District during 1955 was a female of 97 years.

NUMBER OF WOMEN DYING IN, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF,
CHILD BIRTH Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	4	1	5

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
Male	1 hour	Asphyxia Neonatorum
Male	1 day	Atelectasis and Prematurity
Male	2 days	Congenital Malformation of Liver
Male	3 days	Prematurity
Female	2 weeks	B. Coli Meningitis

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year in England & Wales per 1,000 related live births	24.90
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year in Dursley District per 1,000 live births	19.60
Deaths of legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	20.30
Deaths of illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATHS IN THE DISTRICT ARE :

Heart Disease	74 cases
Cancer	38 cases
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	36 cases
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13 cases
Pneumonia	9 cases

CANCER DEATHS.

As in previous years I have divided the cancer deaths into sites of origin. There were 38 cases as compared with 31 last year ; 22 of them were males and 16 females. The average age of all Cancer Deaths in the District was 69.9 years.

Lympho sarcoma	1 case
Cancer of Colon	3 cases
Cancer of Breast	7 cases
Cancer of Stomach	6 cases
Cancer of Pancreas	2 cases
Cancer of Rectum	3 cases
Cancer of Ovary	1 case
Cancer of Caecum	2 cases
Cancer of Uterus	2 cases
Cancer of Tongue	1 case
Cancer of Spine	1 case
Cancer of Liver	1 case
Cancer of Bladder	2 cases
Cancer of Kidney	1 case
Cancer of Oesophagus	1 case
Cancer of Lung	3 cases
Cancer of Prostate	1 case

Total : 38 cases

CAUSES OF DEATHS

Causes of Deaths	Under								Total
	1 yr.	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	6
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	8	20
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	—	—	—	—	—	9	10	17	36
18. Coronary disease, angina	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	14	24
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	5	14
20. Other heart disease	—	—	—	1	2	5	12	16	36
21. Other circulatory disease	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	4
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	6	9
24. Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
26. Ulcer of stomach & deodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and neophrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	7	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35. Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL.									187

COMPARABLE TABLES FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS

BIRTH RATES.

1951	Dursley R.D.	15.79	1951	England & Wales	15.5
1952	Dursley R.D.	14.78	1952	England & Wales	15.3
1953	Dursley R.D.	15.26	1953	England & Wales	15.5
1954	Dursley R.D.	14.94	1954	England & Wales	15.2
1955	Dursley R.D.	15.91	1955	England & Wales	15.0

DEATH RATES

1951	Dursley R.D.	10.34	1951	England & Wales	12.5
1952	Dursley R.D.	9.02	1952	England & Wales	11.3
1953	Dursley R.D.	10.53	1953	England & Wales	11.4
1954	Dursley R.D.	9.90	1954	England & Wales	11.3
1955	Dursley R.D.	10.32	1955	England & Wales	11.7

AVERAGE AGE OF DEATHS IN DURSLEY RURAL DISTRICT.

1951	68.05 years.
1952	66.27 years.
1953	66.72 years.
1954	69.90 years.
1955	68.61 years.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

1951	Dursley R.D.	16.20	1951	England & Wales	29.6
1952	Dursley R.D.	25.7	1952	England & Wales	27.6
1953	Dursley R.D.	16.59	1953	England & Wales	26.80
1954	Dursley R.D.	11.76	1954	England & Wales	26.0
1955	Dursley R.D.	19.60	1955	England & Wales	24.90

MARRIAGES IN DURSLEY R.D.

DURING YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1955

By Clergymen and other Authorised Persons	...	...	92
By Registrar	...	...	22
Total:			114

Marriage Rate in this area per 1,000 mid-year population	...	6.69
Marriage rate for England & Wales	...	16.1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS, 1955.

<i>Disease</i>	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-5 years	6-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-34 years	35-44 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Age Unknown	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	5	11	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	17
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puer. Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	3	—	10
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia N.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior Polio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	4	3	2	14	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
Measles	7	32	36	49	157	171	32	3	6	2	—	1	1	497
Cereb. Sp. F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL														559

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN PARISHES, 1955

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Puerperal Pyrexia	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Total
Cam	3	—	22	172	—	—	197
Coaley	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
Dursley	4	3	5	120	—	—	132
North Nibley	—	—	—	40	—	—	40
Nymphsfield	—	—	—	7	—	—	7
Kingswood	—	—	—	3	1	—	4
Slimbridge & Cambridge	—	3	1	22	—	—	26
Stinchcombe	—	—	1	6	—	—	7
Uley	5	1	—	34	—	3	43
Wotton-Under-Edge	5	3	—	92	—	—	100
TOTAL.							559

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following Immunisations and Vaccinations have been carried out within the District during 1955 by General Practitioners and Local Authority Doctors.

NO. OF CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF PRIMARY IMMUNISATION.

	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	Totals
G.P.	20(14)	43(17)	11(1)	2(1)	—	4(1)	—	80(34)
L.A.	7	30	6	—	2	18	4	67

Note—Figures in brackets denote combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough injections included in totals.

VACCINATIONS

	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 and over	Total
Vaccination	108	8	3	8	13	140
Re-vaccination	—	—	1	5	18	24

INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

During the year 1955, 72 certificates have been stamped and countersigned. The increase in number is due to many families going to the Colonies to start a new life.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

The number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year was 127, an increase of 4 on 1954.

A Mass Radiography Survey was made in the District at the end of 1954 and the early months of 1955, and as a result of this Survey several new cases were notified.

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	58	41	99
Non-Pulmonary	13	15	28
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL:	71	56	127
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

TABLE SHOWING AGES OF
NEW CASES AND IN-TRANSFERS AND DEATHS.

Age	New Cases and In-Transfers				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & Upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	7	—	2	—	—	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, — Section 47.

REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION TO SUITABLE PREMISES.

During the year several cases were investigated but it was not found necessary to take compulsory measures under the Act. Persuasion worked in each case and the persons were taken to Homes or Hospitals for the chronic sick.

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938.

During the year 2 cases of animals with suspected Anthrax were notified but fortunately neither was confirmed.

HOUSING.

CLEARANCE AREAS.

Four areas in the Boulton Lane and The Slade Area of Dursley were declared Clearance Areas by the Council following an Official Representation last year. These areas comprise in all 27 houses and the Council decided that they would apply for compulsory powers to purchase all these houses and in addition to apply for compulsory powers to purchase the Boulton Hall, two other private houses, and two parcels of land adjacent to the Clearance Areas which would enable them to re-develop the whole area.

A Public Inquiry was held at the Council Offices on the 27th September, 1955, when many objectors were heard, including the Dursley Parish Council who own the Boulton Hall, the owner/occupiers of the two houses outside the Clearance Areas, two owners of property included in the Areas, and two owners of parcels of land adjacent to the Areas.

Confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order has since been received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

An Official Representation was made at the end of the year in respect of 5 houses in the Waterloo Yard and Potters Pond Area of Wotton-Under-Edge. The Area was declared a Clearance Area by the Council and no objections were received.

Further action was also taken during the year under the provisions of Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, and Section 92 of Public Health Act, 1936, details of which are shown in the following table.

RETURN FOR YEAR, 1955.

Number of houses demolished	6
Number of houses closed as a result of action under Sec. 11, Housing Act, 1936 and Sec. 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.	17
Unfit Houses rendered fit:	
As a result of informal action	59
As a result of formal action.	4

HOUSING MANAGEMENT.

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following report on the letting of Council Houses in the District.

During the year 1955, 107 families were re-housed by the Council, in accordance with the assessment of need system of priorities. Due, however, to the fact that the Council's newly erected post-war houses are now necessarily being let at higher rents, a new factor has emerged in letting. It has now been necessary to maintain a separate record of those applicants, who

having been chosen by the Letting Committee on a need basis, are forced to wait, for financial reasons, for the tenancy of a pre-war house at a cheaper rent. During the year, it was found possible to accommodate this type of tenant within a reasonable length of time — due mainly to the flexibility of the Council's "Transfer of Tenancy System", and the means whereby tenants may mutually exchange tenancies of Council Houses. It is anticipated, however, that as occupiers of Council Houses become more settled, with growing families gradually being accommodated in the larger houses, the mobility of tenants will decrease, and despite efforts to ensure that applicants are offered the tenancies of houses at rentals well within their means, the Council may reach a stage where great difficulty will be experienced due to a general "settling down" process on all estates managed by the Council.

Emergency cases during the year 1955 amounted to 9 cases of applicants who were required to leave their accommodation as a result of their landlords obtaining Court Orders for possession, 3 cases of applicants who were suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and a number of other cases where serious illness existed.

As in the past, close co-operation has existed with the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Department, and a general tidying up of the district's sub-standard properties has been a result of appropriate action being taken by the Public Health Department in these cases where applicants housed by the Council were occupying sub-standard dwellings.

Generally speaking, the high standard of need among those applicants who were in the category of top priority on the waiting list, has decreased. It is clear now that the very urgent cases of large families occupying poor property, and other similar applicants where illness existed, have been gradually re-housed, and as each year goes by, the general picture is correspondingly better.

Twelve Polish families have been re-housed from Daglingworth Hostel, Cirencester, in part fulfillment of the Council's undertaking to assist in the re-housing of Polish families from this Hostel at the rate of 5 families per year.

With regard to Repairs and Maintenance of Council houses, during this year the Council's maintenance staff has been increased, and a system has been adopted whereby systematic maintenance work on the Council's pre-war estates has been commenced, together with a mobile section of staff dealing with emergency repairs. During 1955, Mitre Pitch, Wotton-Under-Edge; Kingsdown, Dursley, Draycott Bungalows, Cam, and Northfields, Stinchcombe, were inspected and porches, gates, garden paths, guttering, downpipes, chimney stacks, and re-painting work, received attention. A report of this system of maintenance and the general condition of pre-war Council estates has been prepared

and submitted to the Council, and the whole work of the Council house repair system explained.

The gale, during 1955, caused considerable damage to the roofs of many Council houses, and, where possible, almost the whole of the energies of the maintenance staff were engaged on replacing of tiles and similar damage experienced on the Council's Estates.

It should not be assumed from the foregoing account, that every house is in first class order or that very little remains to be done. There are still a great number of minor repairs outstanding which are less urgent and waiting for work to be commenced.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Hughes of the Gazette Office for providing the following meteorological report.

RAINFALL IN INCHES DURING 1955.

January	3.19"
February	1.77"
March	1.49"
April	1.22"
May	4.67"
June	3.14"
July	0.20"
August	0.36"
September	1.06"
October	1.55"
November	3.31"
December	3.89"

TOTAL: 25.85"

Wettest day during year: June 3rd — 1.11"
Driest month: July — 0.20"
Prevailing Wind: South West

MEAN OF TEMPERATURE.

	Minimum	Maximum
	(Taken in shade but not in screen)	
January	33.02	41.5
February	28.0	41.4
March	30.2	50.1
April	40.4	63.09
May	41.8	63.2
June	50.1	71.7
July	52.80	82.22
August	53.8	85.54
September	47.16	73.33
October	40.9	61.19
November	37.93	51.36
December	35.70	48.0

Mean of Minimum for Year — 40.98

Mean of Maximum for Year — 61.50

Coldest day of Year — 26th February — 15 degrees

Hottest day of Year — 13th July — 97 degrees.

Average temperature for Year — 51.24 degrees.

BRITISH RED CROSS
PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC, DURSLEY.

I am indebted to the Physiotherapist, Mr. G. C. Brown, in charge of the above Clinic, for the report submitted concerning the work carried out at the Clinic in 1955.

REPORT OF THE PHYSIOTHERAPIST.

The number of attendances at the Clinic during 1955 show a small increase on the figures for 1954.

During the year 489 patients attended 6,560 times and received 12,829 treatments. There were 432 fresh cases and 57 remained from 1954.

Of the total number 49 were private patients, sent for treatment by their own Doctors, the remainder were treated under the National Health Scheme, and sent to the Clinic by the Specialists operating at Hospitals in Gloucester, Bristol, Bath, Southmead, Cossham, Frenchay, Ham Green, Stroud, Berkeley and the Childrens' Orthopaedic Clinic in Dursley.

Analysis of the conditions treated show that the Vertebral Disc and joint derangements head the list again this year, followed by the Arthritic conditions and Fractures of all kinds in that order.

Vertebral Traction continues to play an important part in the treatment of the Disc and joint derangements and we are most fortunate in being able to offer such treatments on one of the latest electrically driven rhythmic Traction Tables.

Treatment of this large number of patients has been possible only because of the co-operation of the Ambulance and Hospital Car Service, which is available for those patients unable to use public transport.

ANALYSIS OF CONDITIONS.

Arthritic Conditions		Elbow Conditions	6
Rheumatoid Arthritis	15	Wrist & Hand Conditions	2
Osteo-arthritis	71	Hip Conditions	2
Still's Disease	2	Knee Conditions	16
Spinal Conditions	110	Foot Conditions	27
Shoulder Conditions	22	Deformities	7
Bone Conditions	11	Skin Conditions	5
Virus Infection	3	G. V. Conditions	1
E.N.T. Conditions	15	Septic Infection	2
Fractures of all Kinds	65	Lung Conditions	14
Injuries of all Kinds	35	Chilblains	1
Hemiplegia	2		
Erythema Nodosum	1		

FOOD POISONING.

I am pleased to report that there has been no confirmed outbreak of Food Poisoning during the year. There have been several outbreaks of sickness and diarrhoea at Schools in the District. Samples of water, milk and foodstuffs and faeces proved negative for Salmonella or Shigella organisms and it must therefore be assumed that these outbreaks were caused by some virus infection.

UNDULANT FEVER

One case of Undulant Fever occurred in the District during the year. This is not a Notifiable Disease but it is caused by drinking raw milk which is infected with organisms of *Brucella Abortus*.

The milk was supplied by a retailer living outside the District. The appropriate Authority was advised and the cows belonging to the farmers supplying this retailer were tested for the presence of *Brucella Abortus*. A positive reaction was obtained from one cow which was subsequently destroyed. While tests were being made by the Divisional Veterinary Officer the milk was sent to a pasteurisation plant for heat treatment before being sold.

PART II.

REPORT OF THE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The Staff in the Department of the Engineer and Surveyor consists of :-

<i>Deputy Engineer and Surveyor</i>	N. R. W. Lee
<i>Architectural Assistant</i>	R. Edwards
<i>Technical Assistants</i>	T. N. Hartley
R. L. Herrick to 23.7.55	K. Underwood
<i>Junior Architectural Assistant</i>	G. W. Reeves from 1.12.55
<i>General and Costing Clerk</i>	A. W. Sutton
<i>Clerk/Typist</i>	Mrs. J. M. McCorkell

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my ninth annual report.

A very satisfactory year's progress has been made throughout all departments for Public Health and Housing.

There has been, as anticipated, a marked increase in the activity of the improvement of houses for which grants have been made under the Housing Acts, 1949 and 1952, and there has also been an increase in the number of valuations made for advances under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

I am glad to report to you the continued excellent spirit and co-operation which exists in the Department and I thank the staff for the manner in which they have given their services. May I also thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and consideration.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. DIMERY.

*Engineer, Surveyor and Chief
Sanitary Inspector.*

HOUSING

The number of houses completed during 1955 was 71 out of a total number of 111 under construction. This brings the total number of post-war dwellings completed by the Council to 739 which is an average of just over 70 per year.

The Contracts in progress during 1955 were as follows:

44 Traditional Houses	Woodfield
4 Shops, Maisonettes and 10 Garages	Woodfield
17 Traditional Houses	Uley (Raglan)
22 Traditional Houses	Uley (Raglan)
6 Traditional Houses	Woodfield
31 Traditional Houses	Woodfield
30 Traditional Houses	Wortley Road, Wotton-Under-Edge.
24 Holcot Houses	Woodfield
4 Old Peoples' Flats	
4 Maisonettes	Woodfield
14 Traditional Houses	Woodfield
7 Traditional Houses	Slimbridge
14 Garages	Woodfield

SITE WORKS.

Roads and Sewers sufficient for approximately 120 dwellings were commenced at The Rangers Estate, Dursley.

Footpaths were completed to the Carriageway at Woodfield, Extension No. 4.

Footpaths were completed to the Carriageway at Raglan Estate, Uley.

Footpaths were completed to the Carriageway at Pitman Place, Wotton-Under-Edge.

FINAL ACCOUNTS.

Final accounts were examined and agreed during the year for the following Contracts.

6 Traditional Houses	Woodfield
17 Traditional Houses	Raglan Estate, Uley

In addition, a Final Account was prepared and agreed in respect of the Contract for the erection of 20 Traditional Houses at Draycott. This was an unusual case, as the Contract was entered into as long ago as September, 1946. The Contractors gave notice to terminate their Contract when only 60% of the work had been done. The validity of the Notice was contested through the Arbitration Court and an award was given in favour of the Council. Notwithstanding this award the Contractors had a claim on the Council for work done and materials supplied.

After much negotiation, interviews and correspondence the final account was agreed satisfactorily. Some considerable delay was caused due to the fact that the Contractor's Managing Director left England shortly after the Arbitration and it was not until this year that he returned to this Country for the purpose of presenting his claim against the Council.

The present system of preparing final accounts for agreement with Contractors and checking interim claims for increases in wages and materials, is still working satisfactorily.

DETAILS OF THE NUMBER
OF HOUSES IN PROGRESS OF BUILDING IN 1955.

Woodfield Estate	Holcot	24
Woodfield Estate	Traditional (44 Contract)	2
Uley (Raglan Estate)	Traditional (22 Contract)	7
Woodfield Estate	Traditional	31
Woodfield Estate	Traditional	14
Woodfield Estate	Old Peoples' Flats & Maisonettes	8
Slimbridge	Traditional	7
Wortley Road Estate	Traditional	18
TOTAL		111

DETAILS OF THE NUMBER OF HOUSES COMPLETED IN 1955.

UNDER THE COUNCIL'S ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

Woodfield Estate	44	Traditional Houses	2
Woodfield Estate	31	Traditional Houses	11
Woodfield Estate	14	Traditional Houses	1
Woodfield Estate	24	Holcot Houses	24
Woodfield Estate	8	Flats & Maisonettes	8
Uley (Raglan Estate)	22	Traditional Houses	7
Wotton-Under-Edge			
Wortley Road Estate	30	Traditional Houses	18
Total:			71

COMPLETED UNDER PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Coaley	...	...	...	...	2
Cam	...	...	...	...	53
Stinchcombe	...	...	...	...	1
Wotton-Under-Edge	...	...	...	...	6
Slimbridge	...	...	...	...	1
Uley	...	...	...	...	2
TOTAL:					65

Total Number of Houses completed by Council's Engineer and Surveyor and by Private Enterprise 136

HOUSING ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

During the year, Surveys were carried out and levels taken at Pitman Place, Wortley Road, Wotton-Under-Edge, for 7 houses, and at Woodfield for 19 houses and 14 garages.

Specifications were also prepared for 14 Garages at Woodfield and 19 Houses at Woodfield.

Layout Plans were prepared for the following:

19 Houses, Woodfield.

7 Houses, Pitman Place, Wortley Road,
Wotton-Under-Edge.

14 Garages, Woodfield.

2 Garages, Fairmead Estate, Cam.

Detailed House Plans were prepared for the following:

19 Traditional Houses, Woodfield.

7 Traditional Houses, Pitman Place, Wortley Road,
Wotton-Under-Edge.

Detailed Plans were prepared for:

14 Garages, Woodfield.

2 Garages, Fairmead.

Tenders were invited for the undermentioned Schemes:

19 Traditional Houses, Woodfield.

14 Garages, Woodfield.

2 Garages, Fairmead, Cam.

Roads and Sewers, Rangers Estate, Dursley.

Ministry approvals were given in respect of the following.

14 Traditional Houses, Woodfield.

7 Traditional Houses, Slimbridge.

14 Garages, Woodfield.

2 Garages, Fairmead, Cam.

During the year the following works were completed:

Footpaths to the Carriageway, Pitman Place,
Wortley Road, Wotton-Under-Edge.

Footpaths to the Carriageway, Raglan Way, Uley.

Footpaths to the Carriageway, Woodfield.

Extension No. 4.

BUILDING BYELAWS.

The number of plans and applications deposited for consideration was 244, and of these 238 were approved and 6 disapproved.

The number of inspections made for foundations, damp proof course, covering of site, drains and final inspections during the year was 613.

The number of applications submitted for approval by the Local Planning Authority totalled 56.

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS.

Careful consideration was given to 48 applications for advances under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts and 47 valuations were made after the necessary inspection of the properties. In the case of new dwellings it was necessary to examine the detailed house plans, specifications and builders' estimates. One application was withdrawn and one was not recommended as the premises were not up to the standard required.

As a result of such valuations and inspections, advances under the Acts were recommended and approved to 46 applicants.

The total number of Inspections carried out during the year for valuation of work done for Interim and Final Certificates in respect of advances made by instalments, was 67.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, — Section 5.

Applications for Guarantees of Building Society loans were examined and subsequent valuations made.

The number of applications received, considered and approved during the year was 7.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, — Section 4.

An application for advance under the Housing Act, 1949, — Section 4, was considered, and plans and specifications were examined and approved.

HOUSING ACTS 1949-1952. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

As anticipated, the volume of work in connection with Improvement Grant applications showed a marked increase during the past year.

The initial work involved, advising on property and schemes prior to submission of plans and specifications, took up considerable time. 42 Office appointments and 59 preliminary inspections of houses were made.

It is essential to check the cost of each scheme submitted and for this purpose Bills of Quantities are prepared and costed for comparison with Builders' estimates received in support of the application.

The number of applications received and dealt with during the year totalled 49. Of these 47 were granted, 1 refused, and 1 withdrawn. The total applications granted up to the end of the year numbered 72.

The number of inspections made during the year during progress of work and for valuations for interim and final certificates for payment total 131 (plus).

The Act has encouraged the re-conditioning of many houses which otherwise might not have been carried out. It is interesting to note that in 5 cases the schemes were in respect of

houses subject to Section 10 or 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, or property which would have come within this category.

The approximate value of the work involved for improvements under the Act amounted to £19,442 and the Grants given during the year amounted to £9,721.

SALE OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

For the purpose of indicating boundary fences, water services and drains, for detailed plans on the Sale of Council Houses to tenants, 37 Surveys were made for this purpose and a total of 222 plans were prepared.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Council are the Statutory Water Authority and approximately 98% of the population enjoy a supply from the Council's mains.

For the purpose of supply and demand the District can be conveniently split into two areas (a) Dursley area, and (b) Wotton-Under-Edge area.

The supplies for Dursley area are derived from springs issuing from Marlstone and Cotswold sand situated at Caswell and Millend. A bulk supply is also obtained from the Gloucester Corporation.

The supplies for Wotton-Under-Edge area are derived from various springs arising from Cotswold sands situated at Tyley Bottom, Frogend, Greenhay, and Hamblins Brake. A bulk supply is obtained from the West Gloucestershire Water Co.

The quality of the water obtained in the District is such that apart from chlorination, no other protective measures are necessary. It has no appreciable plumbo solvent action.

Consumption has increased and during one period of the year the average daily consumption was only some 129,000 gallons less than a million gallons.

An abnormally dry year was responsible for a big drop in the yield of the springs throughout the District and whilst some of the difficulties, which it was anticipated would arise, were temporarily overcome, the need of the implementation of the comprehensive scheme is an urgent necessity. Had it not been for the bulk supplies from the Gloucester Corporation and the West Gloucestershire Water Company, it would have been impossible to maintain a constant supply of water throughout the District.

NYMPSFIELD VILLAGE.

Due to the difficulty in adequately supplying Nympsfield by means of the existing $2\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. motor and pumps which were put in in 1940, two new $7\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. electrically driven motors with horizontal high level pumps were installed and these are capable of delivering 1,500 gallons per hour to the reservoir.

PARTS PER MILLION									
Date									
Total Solid Matter (Dried at 180°C.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mineral Matter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Oxidised Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Per. Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Temporary Hardness (By Sodium Versenate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
pH	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Metals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION									
Number of colonies per ml. of original water developing at 37°C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
At 20-22°C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. of original water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Faecal B. coli type I present/absent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1-9-55	1-9-55	8-9-55	11-10-55	11-10-55	8-11-55			
	414	550	302	353	343	318	Wortley Reservoir, Wotton-U-Edge	Standpipe, 3 Bristol Rd., Cambridge.	Frogend Spring, Wotton-U-Edge.
	394	480	290	325	305	224	West Gos. Supply. (Chlorinated)	(Glos. Corp. Supply) (Chlorinated)	
	20	70	12	28	38	94			
	20	123	12	17	17	13			
	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	2.11	0.12	0.03	—	0.06	—			
	342	284	272	302	276	280			
	83	127	48	59	57	98			
	259	157	224	243	219	182			
	7.4	7.8	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.1			
	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	0.25	—	—	—	—	—			
	Less than 1	25	66	10	4	47			
	Less than 1	290	370	81	60	850			
	0	0	13	13	1	13			
	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present			

PARTS PER MILLION					
Date	8-11-55	17-11-55	17-11-55	17-11-55	1-12-55
Total Solid Matter (Dried at 180°C.)	326				
Mineral Matter	253				
Loss on ignition	73				
Chlorine as Chlorides	14				
Total Oxidised Nitrogen	—				
Nitrite Nitrogen	—				
Free Ammonia	—				
Albuminoid Ammonia	—				
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.50				
Total Hardness	304				
Per. Hardness	100				
(By Sodium Versenate)	204				
Temporary Hardness	7.1				
pH	...				
Metals	...				
Residual Chlorine	—				
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION					
Number of colonies per ml. of original water developing at 37°C.	64	3	1	1	4
At 20-22°C.	3,300	570	102	Less than 1	1
Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. of original water	95	0	0	0	0
Faecal B. coli type I present/absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
	Chlorinated	Chlorinated	Chlorinated	Chlorinated	Chlorinated

Top Spring,
Tyley Bottom,
Wotton-U-Edge.

Standpipe,
2 Bristol Rd.
Cambridge.
(Gloucester Corp.)

Tap,
Slimbridge School.
(Gloucester Corp.)

Tap,
62 Draycott, Cam.
(Gloucester Corp.)

Tap,
Council Offices,
Dursley.

Tap,
Thornton,
Bradley Rd.,
Wotton-U-Edge.

Tap,
3 Innocks Est.,
North Nibley.
(Council Supply)

PARTS PER MILLION

Date	...	...	...
Total Solid Matter (Dried at 180°C.)	...	...	...
Mineral Matter	...	...	...
Loss on ignition	...	...	...
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	...	...
Total Oxidised Nitrogen	...	...	...
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...
Free Ammonia	...	...	...
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...
Total Hardness	...	...	...
Per. Hardness	...	...	...
Temporary Hardness (By Sodium Versenate)	...	...	...
pH	...	...	...
Metals	...	...	...
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Number of colonies per ml. of original water developing at 37°C.	...	...	...
At 20 - 22°C.	...	...	...
Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. of original water	...	...	...
Faecal B. coli type I present/absent	...	...	...

1-12-55

Chlorinated

3

1

4

Absent Aerogenes I. isolated

COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME OF WATER SUPPLY.

There is little progress to report apart from the fact that in November a Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inspector held a local investigation into the scheme.

Work on the booster station at Leathern Bottle and the rising main from the station to the Woodfield reservoir was in progress.

The need of improving the storage capacity, pumping capacity, and the distribution in certain parts of the area is a matter of urgent attention.

Parish	Estimated Population based on inhabited properties.	No. of Properties in Parish	No. of Properties connected with a piped water supply (including stand- pipe supplies)		Houses supplied by Standpipes
			Meter	Domestic	
Cam	3,909	1,401	55	1,233	52
Coaley	727	241	7	161	48
Dursley	4,639	1,636	50	1,463	67
Kingswood	938	332	15	268	39
North Nibley	743	252	41	123	40
Nympsfield	331	92	10	71	4
Slimbridge	897	288	52	193	41
Stinchcombe	410	139	28	90	6
Uley	1,036	366	13	280	44
Owlpen	59	17	—	—	—
Wotton-Under-Edge	3,451	1,285	37	1,081	123
	17,140	6,049	308	4,973	

CONNECTIONS TO WATER MAINS.

During 1955 the following connections were made to the Council's water mains :-

PARISH	No. of Houses connected	Meter	Total
Cam	97	4	101
Coaley	2	1	3
Dursley	2	3	5
Kingswood	—	—	—
North Nibley	5	6	11
Nympsfield	2	1	3
Owlpen	—	—	—
Slimbridge	1	—	1
Stinchcombe	2	—	2
Uley	5	1	6
Wotton-Under-Edge	25	—	25
	141	16	157

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

COMPREHENSIVE SEWAGE SCHEME — DURSLEY AND DISTRICT.

Work has commenced on Contract No. 1. This is for the construction of new Outfall Works and the laying of a new sewer from the works as far as Manhole No. 30 which is sited in Messrs. R. A. Lister's Works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The disposal of refuse from the whole District continued through the year by means of controlled tipping at a site adjoining the Bristol/Gloucester main road on land forming part of Woodend Green Farm. A new Bristol 22 Diesel "Tipmaster" was purchased in January and this together with our Conder 1½ yards scraper has given good service in the proper control of the Tip.

The collection of refuse has been carried out by one Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Tip Freighter and a Bantam Karrier ; a second Bantam Karrier being used as a spare vehicle. With an increase in the amount of refuse to be picked up and an increase in the time taken to do this work the Council have already recommended to purchase a further Shelvoke & Drewry Freighter ; this vehicle with a capacity of 16 to 18 cubic yards as compared with the very much smaller capacity of the Bantam Karrier will cut down the number of journeys made to the Tip.

The issue by the Council of Refuse Bins on hire to householders at an annual charge of 5/- per bin has continued and at the end of the year the total number of bins on hire was 1,128 ; 275 of these were issued during the year. From a public health standpoint the issue of properly constructed and covered bins has been an asset but as a result it has been found that the amount of refuse to be collected has increased.

SALVAGE.

The collection of Salvage at the same time as Refuse has continued and the table below indicates the quantities sold and their approximate value.

So much waste paper and cardboard was being placed out for collection from business premises in Dursley and Wotton-Under-Edge that it has been found necessary to make a special collection from these premises on alternate Saturday mornings.

	T.	C	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	102	3	1	0	702	6	0
Scrap Iron	10	10	2	0	36	17	0
Mixed Metals (Non-ferrous)		2	1	27	7	15	0
Rags		15	2	1	11	12	0
Rubber		9	3	0	1	4	0
String		2	3	18		6	0
	114	4	1	18	£760	0	0

MILK (BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION)

During the year 58 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination ; the results of 41 were satisfactory and the results of 17 unsatisfactory. The County Milk Production Officer is informed of all raw milk sample results and any unsatisfactory results are followed up by her at the farm concerned.

The results of all pasteurised milk samples are sent to the County Sanitary Officer who follows up any unsatisfactory sample at the plant concerned.

From time to time a check is made on the efficiency of milk bottle washing and during the year 27 bottle rinses were taken ; 4 of which proved unsatisfactory.

The unsatisfactory results of raw milk, pasteurised milk and bottle rinses show that routine sampling does serve a very useful purpose, and does help to keep both farmers and distributors of milk on their toes.

MILK. (BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION)

31 samples of milk were submitted for biological examination during the year. One sample was positive to *Brucella Abortus* and the Divisional Veterinary Surgeon was informed. The milk from the farm concerned was already being sent to a pasteurisation plant.

ICE-CREAM & ICE-LOLLIES. (BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION)

During the year 42 samples of ice-cream were taken, 7 of which were unsatisfactory.

12 samples of ice-lolly were taken, 6 results of which were unsatisfactory.

There are three manufacturers of ice-cream and ice-lollies in the District and both inspection and sampling are carried out as a routine.

In addition to the above samples, 3 samples of ice-cream were taken for fat content and all proved to be over the standard required. 3 samples of ice-lollies were taken for chemical examination and no undue chemical contamination was found in the samples.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Routine visits have been made during the year to food premises and I hope to have more work carried out during the current year in an attempt to bring the food premises in the District up to the standard required by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

SHOPS ACT. 1950.

Certain duties under Section 38 of the above Act in connection with (1) Lighting, (2) Facilities for the taking of meals, and (3) Washing Facilities, have been delegated to the Council by

the County Council and inspections have been made of shop premises during the year both in connection with these duties as well as other duties such as (1) Ventilation, (2) Heating, and (3) Sanitary Conveniences for which this Council is responsible.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

During the year slaughtering took place regularly at the two licensed slaughterhouses in the District. They are situated at The Broadwell, Dursley, and Chapel Street, Cam.

The following animals have been slaughtered in the District during 1955.

Cattle	—	129
Calves	—	10
Sheep & Lambs	—	325
Pigs	—	11
TOTAL:		475

A 100% inspection of the carcasses was maintained and the following meat and offal was condemned as a result.

CATTLE	Reason for condemnation
7 whole and 5 Part Ox Livers	Flukes and Cirrhosis
1 whole and 3 Part Ox Livers	Abscesses
Mesenteric Fats from 2 Bullocks	Localised Tuberculosis
Mesenteric Fat from a Heifer	Pentastomum
1 Ox Head (3 year old Heifer)	Localised Tuberculosis
Heart, Thick and Thin Skirt of 2 year old Bullock	Cysticercus Bovis
1 Ox Liver together with Sirloin and Aitch	Abscess and Peritonitis
SHEEP AND LAMBS.	
5 whole and three parts Sheeps' Livers	Flukes
2 Ewes' Livers	Physiological Fatty Changes
PIGS.	
2 Pigs' Heads	Localised Tuberculosis
Percentage of Cattle affected with Localised Tuberculosis	2.32%
Percentage of Pigs affected with Localised Tuberculosis	18.18%

The following meat was inspected at butchers' shops in the Area and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:

HOME & IMPORTED MEAT	REASON FOR CONDEMNATION	WEIGHT
Aitch Cut	Badly bruised	25 lbs.
Part Hind Quarter Beef	Local Abscess	75 lbs.
Part Hind Quarter Beef	Bone Taint	110 lbs.
Part Hind Quarter Beef	Badly bruised	32 lbs.

SLAUGHTERMEN.

During the year two new slaughtermens' Licences were issued bringing the total number of Slaughtermen licensed within this Area to 11.

FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year the following foodstuffs were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption :

Tinned Meat	35 tins	67 lbs. 6 ozs.
Tinned Fish	23 tins	10 lbs. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs.
Tinned Fruit	57 tins	69 lbs. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Tinned Vegetables	93 tins	93 lbs. 5 ozs.
Tinned Milk	7 tins	Equivalent to 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ pints
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs		159 lbs. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.

(This figure includes 130 lbs. of dessicated coconut which was surrendered by a local confectioner due to its rancidity and discolouration)

Dried Milk. 1 tin. 90 lbs.

(This tin was inspected at a School Canteen and was found to contain extraneous matter)

Frozen Egg. 25 tins. 568 lbs.

(Frozen egg is used by local confectioners in the manufacture of cakes. It is imported and the tins were surrendered and condemned due to the decomposition of the contents.)

Wet Fish

5 stone of kippers, 12 lbs. herrings and 9 lbs. of hake.

Pork Pies.

A complaint was received in connection with three pork pies purchased in a Dursley Shop and which were found to be sour.

As a result the remaining pies were inspected at the Shop, and others were found to be in a sour condition. All the pies of that particular day's manufacture were voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During the year 17 new applications were received for licences to station and use moveable dwellings within the District. At the end of the year 43 moveable dwellings had been licensed within the District.

The licensed site at Slimbridge was again used during the year, mostly by persons staying only for one or two nights.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Early in the year, Mr. E. G. Whittle, the Public Analyst, agreed to make available two sets of apparatus for the measurement of Atmospheric Pollution. The Council accepted this offer and arrangements were made for the apparatus to be installed at Upper Cam Vicarage and the Council Offices, Dursley. Each set of apparatus comprises a deposit gauge assembly and a

lead peroxide candle. During the eight months that the apparatus has been in use the following figures have been obtained.

TOTAL SOLIDS DEPOSIT EXPRESSED AS TONS PER SQUARE MILE

	Upper Cam.	Council Offices
May	15.70	9.39
June	5.53	7.59
July	4.61	4.88
August	5.48	3.11
September	6.52	5.05
October	6.67	4.75
November	5.60	4.68
December	8.90	9.24
TOTAL:	59.01	48.69

MILLIGRAMS OF SULPHUR TRIOXIDE
PER DAY PER 100 SQ.CM. OF LEAD PEROXIDE.

	Upper Cam.	Council Offices
May	1.09	0.98
June	0.87	1.86
July	1.09	0.79
August	0.89	1.24
September	0.37	0.42
October	1.0	3.09
November	1.89	2.66
December	0.50	1.18
TOTAL:	7.70	12.22

From the figures obtained to date it is observed that they vary with the rainfall and wind directions, and whilst at the present time it would not appear that there is any serious problem one is not in a position to draw any definite conclusions from the figures obtained so far.

During the year complaints were received from Cam Parish Council with reference to the smoke and smuts emitted from an incinerator used by a large industrial firm. There was justification for complaint and the firm concerned were asked to alter the construction of a baffle in the incinerator ; to carry its chimney higher and to refrain from burning rubber. These requests have been met and in our opinion the situation has improved but observations are still being made.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

A total of 52 licences were issued during the year for the storage of Petroleum Spirit.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There is one shop in Dursley licensed by the Council under the provisions of the above Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	No. of Premises	Inspections	No. of Notices	Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	58	12	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	5	—	—	—
TOTAL	69	18	2	—

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	—

OUTWORK. (Section 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	4	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc.	8	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	—	—	—	—	—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The following work has been carried out during the year under the provisions of the above Act,

Number of inspections of Private Premises (including Council Houses)	1075
Number of inspections of Business Premises	271
Number of inspections of Farms	1
Number of inspections of Council Property (excluding Council Houses)	22
Number of treatments carried out at Private Premises	130
Number of treatments carried out at Business Premises	99
Number of treatments carried out at Council Properties	17

During May and October a Test Bait was carried out on the Dursley, Cam and Wotton-Under-Edge system of sewers. In May an infestation was found in each system and a treatment was made using bread mash and arsenic. In October the Dursley and Cam system only showed a minor infestation and this was treated by the use of sausage rusk and zinc phosphide.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

We have received every co-operation from the Staff at Canynge Hall, Bristol, regarding samples submitted by us for examination. These samples include water, ice-cream, foodstuffs, milk and faeces, as well as the measurement of Atmospheric Pollution recorded by our equipment.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED DURING 1955.

GENERAL SANITATION.	<i>No. of Inspections or Visits</i>
Water Samples	50
Water Supply	38
Drainage	393
Stables & Piggeries	7
Fried Fish Shops	1
Tents, Vans & Sheds	61
Factories	18
Hostel	1
Workshops	1
Outworkers	2
Workplaces	1
Bakehouses	15
Public Conveniences	32
Theatre & Places of Entertainment	5
Refuse Collection & Salvage	185
Refuse Disposal	142
Rats and Mice	13
Insect Pests	13
Atmospheric Pollution	93
Schools	17
Shops	26
Hairdressing Establishments	6
Sewage Disposal	109
Petroleum Consolidation Act	20
Licensed Premises	1
Disposal of Night Soil	1
Mortuary	26
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	188

HOUSING.

					<i>No. of Inspections or Visits</i>
UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.					
No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	76
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	332
UNDER HOUSING ACTS.					
No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	240
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	405
OVERCROWDING.					
No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	10
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	1
VERMINOUS PREMISES.					
No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	2
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	1
MISCELLANEOUS HOUSING VISITS.					
	...	...	...	...	419

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Inquiries in Cases of I.D	...	...	...	63
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	...	19
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	83
Disinfestation	...	...	...	26

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	161
Visits to Butchers	...	...	...	19
Visits to Fishmongers & Poulterers	...	...	...	10
Visits to Grocers	...	...	...	32
Visits to Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	32
Visits to Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	67
Visits to Restaurants	...	...	...	12
Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	4
Visits to Confectioners	...	...	...	7
Visits to Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	18
Visits to Other Premises	...	...	...	7
Visits to Street Vendors and Hawkers Cart	...	...	...	4
Visits to Cowsheds	...	...	...	11
Visits regarding Cowshed Drainage	...	...	...	2
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	17
Visits in connection with Sampling	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	78

MILK.

Bacteriological and Biological	...	...	...	56
Pasteurised	...	...	...	17
Bottle Rinses	...	...	...	23

ICECREAM AND ICE LOLLIES

ICECREAM & ICE LOLLIES	38
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

NOTICES SERVED.

No. of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	84
No. of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	72
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	5
No of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	4

Stroud Rural District Council

Chairman :

G. W. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

F. W. STEVENS, Esq.

Clerk of the Council :

Lt. Col. G. E. G. GADSDEN, D.S.O., M.A.

Councillors :

D. K. Barker, Esq.
R. W. Greenwood, Esq.
J. W. Teed, Esq.
W. Duncan-Young, Esq.
M. H. Furse, Esq.
W. S. C. Green, Esq.
F. G. Tyler, Esq.
T. W. Heybourne, Esq.
F. W. Hill, Esq.
W. T. Ireland, Esq.
H. W. King, Esq.
W. H. Maddocks, Esq.
E. Horsfall, Esq.
Mrs. V. Fyffe, J.P.
Dr. G. M. L. MacRae
G. E. Pearce, Esq., M.B.E
P. R. Symonds, Esq.
Miss M. P. Barron

H. J. Keene, Esq.
G. Sollars, Esq.
Mrs. K. A. Tincker
Col. E. A. Sharpin
R. B. Martin, Esq.
F. W. Harper, Esq.
W. England, Esq.
L. J. Arrowsmith, Esq., J.P.
J. H. A. Anderson, Esq.
Mrs. W. B. Brown
W. E. Critchley, Esq.
F. W. Moore, Esq.
Mrs. A. Young
W. Brown, Esq.
J. V. Gwilliam, Esq.
T. E. Burrell, Esq.
F. Chapman, Esq.
Lt. Col. E. G. Lutyens-Humfrey

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

W. DAVIDSON-LAMB, M.C., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., to 31.5.55.

W. J. DOUGLAS COOPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H. from 1.9.55.

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector :

H. F. CRITCHLEY, A.M. INST. S.E., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary and Food Inspector :

C. G. HOWELL, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary and Housing Inspector :

F. K. HARROP, D.P.A., M.R.SAN.I.

Building Inspector : W. H. RYAN

Engineering Assistant : M. E. FLETCHER

General Assistant : H. R. ANGUS

Pests Officer : S. JONES

Clerk/Shorthand Typists :

Miss B. SMITH.

Miss H. COULDREY.

PART 1.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	35,038
Population ((1951 Census)	26,336
Population (Registrar General 1955) ...	27,170
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) ...	8,693
Rateable value	£141,547/10/0
Sum represented by a penny rate	£559

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS.

	M	F	Total
	209	195	404
Legitimate	202	185	387
Illegitimate	7	10	17
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 mid 1955 population			14.87
Birth Rate, England & Wales per 1,000 Civilian Population			15.00
Comparability Factor for Births			1.07
Therefore Birth Rate (Comparable)			15.91

STILL BIRTHS.

	M	F	Total
	7	4	11
Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 mid year population			0.40
Still Birth Rate, England & Wales, per 1,000 Civilian Population			0.35
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births			26.7
Still Births (per 1,000 Live and Still Births England & Wales)			23.2

DEATHS.

There were 16 Deaths which took place in the Rural District which have been transferred to other Districts for purposes of Annual Death Statistics.

Total Deaths in District	313
158 of these were Males and 155 Females	
212 deaths took place within the District and 101 were transferable deaths from other Areas.	
Average Age of all the Male Deaths during the year	67.50 yrs.
Average Age of all the Female Deaths during the year	71.9 yrs.

AVERAGE AGE OF DEATH FOR THE DISTRICT. 69.72 years.

Death Rate, England & Wales, per 1,000 Civilian Population	11.7
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 mid year population	11.52
Comparability Factor for Deaths	0.83
Therefore Death Rate (Comparable)	9.56

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1955.

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, Other	1	—	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	2	—	2
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
10. Malignant* Neoplasm, Stomach	6	7	13
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung & Bronchus	6	—	6
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	5	5
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1	1
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	19	11	30
15. Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	16	35	51
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	42	12	56
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	1	4
20. Other Heart Disease	25	45	70
21. Other Circulatory Disease	5	2	7
22. Influenza	2	1	3
23. Pneumonia	3	4	7
24. Bronchitis	7	3	10
25. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	5	1	6
27. Gastro Enteritis & Diarrhoea	—	1	1
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital, Malformations	3	2	5
32. Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases	4	17	21
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	—	3
34. All Other Accidents	1	3	4
35. Suicide	2	1	3
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES — TOTALS	158	155	313

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	2	3	5

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE.

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	1	1	2

NUMBER OF DEATHS OF ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS PER 1,000 ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS.

Nil

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)

12.4

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

Female	2 months	Congenital Heart Disease
Female	9/12ths	Broncho Pneumonia
Female	2 days	Congenital Deformities
Male	2 months	Congenital Heart Disease
Male	1 hour	Malformations

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS

Year	Population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1952	26,336	350	10.63	380	14.6	18.4
1953	26,336	296	9.05	403	15.59	19.85
1954	26,336	306	9.38	393	15.53	22.9
1955	27,170	313	9.56	404	15.91	12.4

LONGEVITY TABLE.

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS AND SEX

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0 - 1 years	2	3	5
1 - 5 years	2	2	4
5 - 10 years	—	—	—
10 - 20 years	—	—	—
20 - 30 years	2	—	2
30 - 40 years	7	2	9
40 - 50 years	7	8	15
50 - 60 years	19	13	32
60 - 70 years	28	15	43
70 - 80 years	53	50	103
80 - 90 years	33	49	82
90-100 years	4	14	18
	157	156	313

It is interesting to note that 14 females survived to the 90 - 100 age group as compared with only 4 males.

MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR.

Heart Disease (including Coronary Lesions)	—	130 cases
Cancer	—	55 cases
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	—	51 cases
Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases	—	21 cases
Bronchitis	—	10 cases

CANCER DEATHS

There were 55 cancer deaths during the year:

Cancer of the Stomach	...	...	...	13 cases
Cancer of the Lung	...	...	...	6 cases
Cancer of the Breast	...	...	...	5 cases
Cancer of the Uterus	...	...	...	1 case
Other Sites	...	...	...	30 cases

TOTAL: 55 cases

DEATHS IN HOSPITALS.

Frenchay Hospital, Bristol	...	...	...	4
Stroud General Hospital	...	...	...	20
Royal Hospital, Southgate Street, Gloucester	...	...	...	23
Cotswold Hospital, Tetbury	...	...	...	4
Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Gloucester	...	...	...	21
St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings	...	...	...	1
Delancey Hospital, Cheltenham	...	...	...	2
Lydney & District Hospital	...	...	...	1
Moore Cottage Hospital, Bourton	...	...	...	1
City Maternity Hospital, Gloucester	...	...	...	1
St. Paul's Hospital, Cheltenham	...	...	...	2
St. Thomas's Hospital, London	...	...	...	1
Nursing Homes	...	...	...	5
Torbay Hospital, Torquay	...	...	...	1
Standish House Hospital, Stonehouse	...	...	...	1
				88

Therefore 88 out of 313 deaths occurred in Hospitals outside the area — 28.1%

MONTHS OF THE YEAR IN WHICH DEATHS TOOK PLACE

Month	Deaths that occurred within the District	Deaths that occurred in hospital or while temporarily resident outside the area	Total
January	28	8	36
February	22	7	29
March	25	9	34
April	19	12	31
May	9	7	16
June	20	10	30
July	10	5	15
August	13	12	25
September	10	6	16
October	20	9	29
November	21	10	31
December	15	6	21
	212	101	313

Therefore the worst months for deaths during the year were January, March, April and November.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table gives details of notifications received during the year :-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS, 1955.

<i>Disease</i>	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-5 years	6-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-34 years	35-44 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Age Unknown	<i>Total</i>
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	4
Measles	12	44	60	79	184	202	29	1	—	—	1	—	—	612
Pneumonia	1	—	1	2	1	1	—	1	1	1	10	7	—	26
Whooping Cough	9	10	11	13	29	25	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	101
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	7	7	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	18
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	4
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
TOTAL:														768

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES

M	F	Total
10	7	17

DEATHS

M	F	Total
1	—	1

Of the 17 new cases 8 were pulmonary, 1 mesenteric glands, 1 knee, 6 cervical glands and 1 kidneys. 9 cases were admitted to Standish Chest Hospital, 1 to Salterley Grange, and 5 tuberculous patients were rehoused during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

In July the Mass Radiography Unit again visited The Armoury, Merrywalks, when 3,233 persons from Stroud and the surrounding districts were examined. 5 cases of active tuberculosis were diagnosed, 6 inactive, and 9 significant cases were placed under observation. 11 cases of non-tuberculous conditions were also discovered as a result of X-ray examination. 762 schoolchildren were included in the total number of persons examined, one boy under the age of 15 was found to be suffering from active tuberculosis and another boy in the same age group from inactive tuberculosis.

In February the Unit visited 3 factories and the R.A.F. Station, Aston Down, when a total of 2,294 persons were examined. One case of active tuberculosis and 8 non-tuberculous conditions were found.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following Immunisations and Vaccinations have been carried out within the District during 1955 by General Practitioners and Local Authority Doctors :-

No. OF CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF PRIMARY IMMUNISATION.							
Under 1 year	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 - 9 Years	10 - 14 Years	Total
G.P. 37(22)	140(48)	14(3)	6(3)	3	13(6)	—	213(82)
L.A. 52	63	8	7	5	26	3	164

No. OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED A RE-INFORCING DOSE.							
G.P.	—	—	—	—	2	35	43
L.A.	—	—	—	—	7	348	485

Note—Figures in brackets denote combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough injections included in totals.

VACCINATION					
Under 1 Year	1 Year	2-4 Years	5-14 Years	15 Years or over	Total
82	16	6	4	17	125

RE-VACCINATION					
Under 1 Year	1 Year	2-4 Years	5-14 Years	15 Years or over	Total
—	—	—	8	35	44

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION						
Born	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
G.P.	15	6	2	2	4	3
L.A.	19	12	7	5	1	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

No cases arose during the year calling for action under this Act.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

I have pleasure in submitting a meteorological report for 1955, as kindly supplied to me by Mr. J. B. Powell, your Deputy Clerk.

Rainfall in inches during the year :

January	2.77"	17 days
February	1.68"	12 days
March	1.86"	11 days
April	1.04"	14 days
May	4.80"	15 days
June	3.58"	14 days
July	.54"	3 days
August	.68"	9 days
September	.70"	12 days
October	1.43"	9 days
November	3.22"	12 days
December	3.40"	24 days

25.70" in 152 days

Wettest day — June 3rd — 1.41"

Driest month — July

Hottest day — August 22nd — 90°F.

Coldest night — January 17th and February 19th — 14°F.
i.e. 18° Frost.

TEMPERATURES.

	Maximum	Minimum
January	41.9	30.7
February	42.4	25.8
March	47.5	28.5
April	61.3	39.3
May	68.3	39.3
June	69.2	48.6
July	77.3	52.1
August	77.3	53.5
September	66.3	42.2
October	58.0	37.2
November	48.0	35.1
December	47.6	35.2

Mean of Maximum for year — 58.7°

Mean of Minimum for year — 38.1°

Average Temperature for year — 48.2°

PART II.

REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR. STROUD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information my report of the work carried out by my Department during 1955.

The year has been a particularly busy one for in addition to the routine work a considerable amount of reorganisation has been planned and carried through. It has also been necessary to implement the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954, and the Food and Drugs Act and Food Regulations, 1955.

The Depot Staff averaged 45 working under the control of the Depot Superintendent. Maintenance of Council Houses is done by 10 Tradesmen and 5 Labourers, supervised by a Housing Foreman.

Other general work including Refuse Collection and Disposal Sewerage Works and Systems, Cesspool Emptying and Burial Grounds is under the supervision of a General Foreman with an average of 30 men.

Structural improvements to the Depot were authorised and carried through satisfactorily and I feel that the Depot Organisation is working efficiently and economically.

A small Sewage Works capable of dealing with drainage from 30 Houses was built at Chalford Hill and has worked well. It is satisfactory that these Works were completed at approximately £100 less than the estimated price.

I would draw attention to the fact that six Refuse Tips have been completed during the past two years. The seventh and last at Minchinhampton Crane Quarry has about 18 months tipping space left and a decision on future policy will have to be made before the end of 1956.

The disused Reservoir at Minchinhampton has been levelled off and the wall removed. I was able to arrange for covering material to be tipped free by the County Council and the sale of Walling Stone in small lots realised, I am pleased to say, over £200. What could easily have been a costly task has been completed cheaply and to the satisfaction of the National Trust Committee.

I am also pleased to record an increase of some £600 in the receipts for Salvage. The centralising of tipping has enabled one man and a tractor to do the work of 5 men previously employed and I feel it is fair to say that the Refuse Collection and Disposal Service is being administered as efficiently and cheaply as possible.

Private Enterprise Building has been very active and has given my Department more work than ever. 79 private houses alone were completed, more than three times the number of Council Houses. In all 565 Plans were deposited, examined and submitted to the Council. The Building Inspector has been kept at full stretch but I can say that this aspect of the Council's work has been well carried out.

The 1954 Housing Act required all Councils to resume full scale work in dealing with unfit Houses. A programme as required by the Minister was submitted and, I understand, was almost the first to be returned by Councils in this Region. Mr. Harrop's appointment has enabled the work to proceed, and keep pace with our programme.

67 Improvement Grants have been made and over 30 completed. This represents a most valuable contribution towards the improvement of housing conditions generally.

The new Food Act and Regulations has also meant considerable extra work. I am very pleased to record that Mr. Howell in addition to his other duties has been able to visit and inspect all food premises within the area. Many improvements have been secured as will be seen from the section of the Report dealing with this work.

An excellent team spirit exists among all members of the Department and I am indebted to them all for the hard work and valuable service they have given during the year. This team spirit extends in my experience to all members of the Staff. Much remains to be done but I feel that with their full support the various responsibilities will be faithfully carried out.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman, Clerk, and all members of the Council for their confidence and support during the past year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. F. CRITCHLEY.
Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Council Chambers,
John Street,
Stroud, Glos.

1. WATER SUPPLY

Small extensions to the mains supply have been carried out during the year. Hamlets at the Vatch, Slad and The Edge, Painswick still have no mains supply. A scheme for Edge is in the course of preparation.

Regular samples of the mains supply have been taken and have proved satisfactory.

36 samples of Water were taken from wells and springs, most of which were unsatisfactory. Wherever possible, action was taken to require connections to the mains supply. Other samples were taken for analysis in order to support action under the Housing Acts in connection with the Slum Clearance programme.

2. CESSPOOL SERVICE

There is a continual decrease in the number of cesspools and tanks in the sewered areas as no opportunity is lost to induce owners to connect their properties to the main sewer.

Due, however, to the continued high rate of building development in unsewered areas, new tanks keep the cesspool service fully employed.

Adjoining districts without cesspool emptying machines still receive assistance from this Council.

3. SEWERAGE.

Good progress has again been made in connecting existing properties to the main sewer. The scheme for sewerage Bisley was started on the 4th July 1955, and it is hoped that it will be completed towards the end of February 1956. An improvement in the serious public health problems is expected when property owners make their connections to the new sewer.

Schemes have also been prepared for the villages of Eastcombe and Bussage, and work will begin as soon as the Minister's approval has been granted.

In accordance with the Council's instructions all existing sewers and manholes are now inspected regularly and repaired where necessary. This is a "stitch in time" service and will I feel prove very valuable in the long run.

4. REFUSE COLLECTION.

DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

The regular collection schedules have been maintained although with some difficulty during holiday and bad weather periods. Absence of staff through illness is also a serious problem as is the recruitment and retention of sufficient staff.

The weight of Refuse collected has remained fairly constant at around 6,500 tons. The tendency for Refuse to become

lighter and bulkier has continued. The policy of the Council in acquiring larger capacity vehicles has proved correct and has helped to keep down running costs. The present fleet comprises :

- 2 Rear Loading Dennis Paxits capacity each 22 cubic yards
- 1 Rear Loading Dennis Moving Floor capacity 10 cubic yards.
- 1 Side Loading Ford capacity 10 cubic yards
- 1 Side Loading Ford capacity 2 cubic yards. (part time).
- 1 Side Loading Ford capacity 10 cubic yards. (this vehicle is held as a spare and is used when other lorries are in the Depot for maintenance or repairs).

Fuel consumption tests have shown the following :-

- (a) Ford 10 cubic yards Vehicles — Petrol Engine — 4 - 5 m.p.g.
- (b) Dennis 22 cubic yards Vehicles — Diesel Engine — 8 - 9 m.p.g.
- (c) Dennis 10 cubic yards Vehicles — Diesel Engine — 12 - 14 m.p.g.

Here again the policy of converting to Diesel Engines has proved sound and very considerable fuel savings have been made. As an example the two large Dennis Vehicles (average fuel consumption 70 gallons per month each) replaced 3 Ford Vehicles (average fuel consumption 100 gallons per month each).

The 10 cubic yard Dennis Vehicle uses about 40 gallons per month against the 100 gallons per month of the Ford Vehicle it replaced.

During the year the Rodborough, Painswick and Eastcombe Tips have been finished. In the case of the first two the sites have been levelled and seeded and look very tidy. In all during the past two years some ten acres of common Land have been reclaimed by tipping operations.

All tipping is now concentrated at Minchinhampton. Levelling and screening work is carried out by one man using a tractor fitted with bulldozing attachments.

The Joint Composting Committee has given further consideration to the composting of Refuse and Sewage Sludge. Arrangements have been made for a delegation to visit Edinburgh to inspect the Dano Composting Plant during January 1956.

Very good reports have been received on the working of this Plant which was opened in August.

About 18 months tipping space is left at Minchinhampton and this will be the last of the seven Tips which were in use when I took over from my predecessor.

I personally hope that the Council will adopt Composting as I believe it is the best way of disposing of Household Refuse.

If tipping is to be continued after Minchinhampton is finished I would advocate a site in the Valleys. A heavy bulldozer would be necessary for full control and very large quantities of covering material obtained at considerable cost.

SALVAGE COLLECTIONS WERE :-

Waste Paper	201 tons 10 cwts. 0 qrs.	Value	£1454. 14s. 11d.
Metals, Rags & Bottles.	11 tons 14 cwts. 3 qrs.	Value	£ 376. 13s. 8d.
TOTAL:	213 tons. 4 cwts. 3 qrs.		£1831 8s. 7d.

These figures show a satisfactory increase over 1954 when 185 tons of Waste paper were collected and the total receipts amounted to £1295.0.11d.

5. BUILDING OF NEW COUNCIL AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HOUSES

23 Council Houses and 79 Private Houses were erected in 1955. This compares with 47 and 69 in 1954.

89 Council and 92 Private Houses were under construction at the end of the year.

During 1955 roads and sewers were completed which will accommodate 78 Council Houses.

6. PLANS DEPOSITED FOR APPROVAL UNDER PLANNING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

565 plans were deposited in all, an average of 47 per month.

This represents an increase of 21.5% over 1954 figures.

The building activity during the past year has been tremendous.

7. PETROLEUM STORAGE LICENCES.

80 Premises are licensed to store Petroleum.

Visits have been paid to all premises to ensure that the licence conditions are being complied with.

8. PESTS ACT, 1949.

A summary of the work is given later in the report.

All private properties are treated free of charge and there is no doubt that this service is greatly appreciated by the Ratepayers.

The poisons and methods now available can deal with Rats and Mice very quickly. As these pests breed very quickly early notification is essential and the free service undoubtedly helps.

Business premises treated are charged. Over twenty firms have entered into Annual Agreements and these produced an income of £260.

9. HOUSING.

The 1954 Housing Repairs and Rents Act required all Local Authorities to submit to the Minister by the 30th August 1955, proposals for dealing in one way or another with the unfit houses in their area.

A sample re-survey of a group of houses at Kingscourt in the Parish of Rodborough was carried out in order to assess the changes that had taken place since the original Rural Housing Survey of 1945-47. Some interesting information was obtained which is summarised as follows:-

From the 74 houses re-surveyed it was found that

1. CATEGORY V HOUSES — of the original 42.

- (a) 8 houses had been, and 6 were in process of being put into a satisfactory condition.
- (b) 15 houses were found to be fit only for demolition.
- (c) 13 houses could be reconditioned or added to adjoining properties.

2. CATEGORY III AND IV HOUSES.

- (a) 3 houses had been and 2 were in process of being put into a satisfactory condition.
- (b) 21 houses could be reconditioned or added to adjoining properties.
- (c) 6 houses had been so neglected as to be only fit for demolition.

Whilst it cannot be necessarily assumed that the same pattern will follow throughout the district, it is reasonable to suggest that up to one half of the Old Category V houses are capable of being saved by one means or another.

The Minister required an estimate of the total number of unfit houses and the time necessary to demolish them in his Return. The following estimate was submitted, and has since been approved by the Minister.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Total number of permanent dwellings in the area | 8,555 |
| 2. Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation and suitable only for demolition. | 450 |
| 3. Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all houses in (2) | 9 years. |

ACTION IN THE FIRST 5 YEARS.

It is estimated that the number of houses to be demolished in the first five years will be 250.

Following upon this information, full scale activities continued during the year in an effort to secure the repair, improvement and demolition of unfit houses.

Many visits were made to houses following requests for advice regarding Improvement Grants and during the year 67 grants were authorised.

42 houses were represented as unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense. The Council made eleven Demolition Orders, fifteen Closing Orders and accepted one Undertaking. Fifteen cases were under consideration at the end of the year.

An area at Whiteshill containing four houses was declared a Clearance Area and the Council subsequently made a Clearance Order.

Applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and in each case the issue of a Certificate was authorised. No applications for the Revocation of Certificates were received.

The following table shows the number of visits made to houses for various purposes during the year :-

VISITS.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	227
Re-inspections	...	...	...	169
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	110
Improvement Grants — revisits	...	...	...	58
Overcrowding	...	...	...	2
				TOTAL: 566

10. CARAVANS.

In addition to the licensed sites at Stonehouse, Thrupp, Butterow and Minchinhampton, a new Site is being developed at Leonard Stanley. During the year, the owner has laid drainage and made a connection to the sewer and has had plans passed for the erection of sanitary blocks for each van. In addition, a concrete access road and Caravan stands are to be constructed.

At the end of the year, licences had been granted for 83 caravans.

11. FACTORIES.

153 visits were paid to factories during the year and in addition to considerable improvement in the sanitary accommodation, it has been possible to reduce the amount of pollution into neighbouring water courses.

A total of seven factories have made, while three more are in the process of making a connection to the public sewer. In addition, where no sewer was available, two septic tanks were installed.

Work commenced during the previous year in connection with means of escape in case of fire has been continued and considerable progress has been made.

12. FOOD AND DRUGS. — FOOD HYGIENE.

337 visits were paid to food premises during the year, and considerable attention was paid to Food Hygiene. A survey of all shops in the district in which food is sold, stored or prepared for sale was completed. The purpose of the survey was threefold :

- (a) To prepare an up to date record of food premises in the district.
- (b) As a routine inspection to ensure that necessary works enforceable under the existing Food and Drugs Act and the Council's Food Byelaws were being maintained.
- (c) To ascertain to what extent food shops in the district conformed with the proposed amendments in the new Food and Drugs Bill.

TABLE SHOWING ACTION TAKEN.

No. of Verbal Notices Served	...	...	...	18
No. of Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	32
No. of Notices complied with	...	...	...	38

The maintaining of a satisfactory standard in food shops depends not only on the enforcement of structural requirements, but the practise of hygienic methods, and it is satisfactory to record, that improvements are being made in this direction. By frequent inspections, and informal personal contact with Managers and Staff, it should be possible to raise the standard of food hygiene still higher when the new food and drugs legislation comes into operation in 1956.

3 lbs. 13 oz. of meat and 117 miscellaneous tins were condemned during the year.

13. DAIRIES AND MILK RETAILERS.

The bulk of the Pasteurised Milk is still being obtained from the Stroud Urban District although the same two firms within the Rural District continue to pasteurise milk.

Since a large number of Dairymen gave up business as a result of this District becoming a designated area during 1954, the situation has become stabilised again with fifteen retailers of designated milk. Eight Supplementary Licences were granted to Dairymen from other Districts to retail milk in the Rural Area.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL SAMPLES OF MILK.

During the year, 31 samples of Tuberculin Tested, and 4 samples of pasteurised milk were taken. With the exception of 7 samples all satisfactorily passed the Methylene Blue Test. In all cases of failure, investigations were made and the appropriate action taken. Further follow up samples have since proved satisfactory.

TABLE I.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	55
Re-inspection following above	...	...	...	...	109
Visits re water supply	...	...	...	...	60
Visits re drainage	...	...	...	...	207
Visits re stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	10
Visits re moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	45
Places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	9
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	9
Atmospheric pollution	...	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	74
Schools	...	...	...	...	6
Enquiries into case of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	43
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	7
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	9
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	24
Refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	4
TOTAL:					688

TABLE II

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS.

In the following table are summarised the nuisances and defects dealt with during the year under the Public Health Acts. Byelaws and other enactments:-

Defective brickwork	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness	...	...	...	...	10
Defective woodwork of windows and doors	...	...	...	...	1
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	9
Defective fireplaces or flues	...	...	...	...	2
Leaking roofs	...	...	...	...	11
Gutters and rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	6
Stairs and rails defective	...	...	...	...	2
Damaged wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	12
Dirty walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	2
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Drains constructed or repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	47
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	25
Connections to sewer	...	...	...	...	25
Sanitary fittings renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Defective water closets	...	...	...	...	12
Defective earth or chemical closets	...	...	...	...	3
W.C's without proper flushing apparatus	...	...	...	...	2
Water supply — insufficient or defective	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	3
TOTAL:					203

16.

TABLE III FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

(1) Inspections for the purpose of provision as to health

Premises	No. of Premises	Inspections	No. of Notices	Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	38	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	153	14	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	118	155	14	—

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	4	4	—	2
TOTAL	6	6	—	2

OUTWORK. (Section 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of Instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, Making etc.	4	—	—	—	—	—
Carding etc. of buttons, etc.	8	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	—	—	—	—	—

17. TABLE IV PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

	Local Authority Properties	Dwelling houses	Business and various Premises	Totals	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District.	16	8420	945	9386	177
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	—	195	46	241	22
(b) Survey under the Act.	16	202	160	362	71
(c) Otherwise (when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	566	357	923	12
3. Total Inspections carried out including re-inspections.					
4. Number of properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by.-					
(a) Rats	—	—	—	—	—
Major	8	84	96	188	28
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
Mice	—	—	—	—	—
Major	—	18	—	18	6
Minor	2	190	72	264	7
5. Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by the L.A.	10	292	168	450	4
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments.					
7. Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work.	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act.	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal proceedings.	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	—	—	—	—	—

18.

TABLE V.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Summary of food premises visited during the year :

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	27
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	27
Fishmongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	18
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	10
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	177
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	16
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	9
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	...	13
TOTAL:						337

19.

TABLE VI

TABLE OF FOOD CONDEMNED DURING 1955.

BUTCHER'S MEAT.

Lamb	3 lbs. 13 ozs.
------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----------------

CANNED FOODS.

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	22 tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	7 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	36 tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	34 tins
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	7 tins
Jams	...	...	...	...	...	11 tins

20.

TABLE VII

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Visits to dairies and milk distributors	65
---	-----	-----	----

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK)
REGULATIONS, 1949 - 1954.

Number of dealer's licenced to sell pasteurised milk	7
Number of dealer's licenced to sell tuberculin tested milk	15
Number of Supplementary Licences issued	8

Thornbury Rural District Council

Chairman :

J. H. COOKE, M.B.E., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

J. W. LEE

Solicitor and Clerk to the Council :

J. L. JUDD, D.P.A.

Councillors :

C. Allen, Esq.	A. E. Kibbey, Esq.
E. Allen, Esq.	J. W. Lee, Esq.
W. S. Armstrong, Esq.	F. W. Lewis, C.C.
H. Booth, Esq.	Mrs. W. M. Pearce
L. W. Bosisto, Esq.	Rev. W. A. Peel
A. W. Boyt, Esq.	F. W. Perry, Esq.
Rev. W. F. Burlton	E. H. Phillips, Esq.
J. Chadwick, Esq.	W. N. Scott, Esq.
G. H. Chamberlayne, Esq.	J. Spratt, J.P.
S. F. Daldry, Esq.	H. R. Stephens, M.B.E., C.C.
Mrs. P. M. Davidson	R. C. B. Stride, Esq.
W. Fowler, Esq.	J. W. Thompson, Esq.
Mrs. M. Haddrell	Mrs. W. L. Ward
J. J. Hardwick	J. Whelpton, Esq.
J. H. Harford, Esq.	H. W. Wittern, Esq.
J. M. Kennard, Esq.	H. M. Williams, Esq.
	D. J. Winstone, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. DOUGLAS COOPER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

R. HUNTINGTON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

H. PEARSON, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E., A.F.S.(ENG); A.R.I.P.H. & H.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

L. F. P. WARREN, M.S.I.A.

O. B. DOWNING, CERT. S.I.B. 1st L.C.G.

Assistant to Sanitary Inspector :

J. T. OVENS

Assistant Building Surveyor :

J. D. TURNER, AFF.I., MUN.E., A.R.SAN.I.

Assistant to Building Surveyor :

R. W. MORRIS

Rodent Officer : G. MILTON

Senior Clerk : J. W. A. MOSS

Clerk : Miss M. F. DAY.

PART 1.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

No important change has taken place in the nature of the chief trades carried out in the District. These are :-

1. Agriculture and Allied Trades.
2. Sharpness Docks and Shipbuilding.
3. Quarrying.
4. Building of Caravans.
5. Brick and Tile Manufacture.
6. Braid and Loom Elastic Smallwares.
7. Salmon Fisheries.
8. Flour Mills.
9. Baking.
10. Aircraft Engineering.

2. STATISTICS, 1954.

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District (acres)	...	...	...	61,337
Population	...	...	...	25,940
Number of Inhabited Properties	...	...	...	7,540
Number of Inhabitants per Property	...	...	...	3.42
INHABITED PROPERTIES.				
Huts at Squatters Camps			3	
Houses			6,700	
Farms			528	
Houses and Shops			242	
Public Houses			70	
Rateable Value	.....	...	...	142,023
Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	£560
Number of Requisitioned Houses	...	...	...	—
Percentage of Council Houses	...	...	...	17.4%
Percentage of Population served by mains water				78.2%
Percentage of Population served by modern sewers				55.0%

VARYING POPULATION OF THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

Year	Population
1891	16,542
1905 (Parish of Henbury taken in)	18,419
1913	19,223
1919	17,478
1938	19,480
1939	20,470
1940	23,339
1941	24,610
1942	24,440
1943	23,730
1944	22,990
1945	22,790
1948	25,590
1950	25,180
1951	25,410
1952	25,310
1953	25,670
1954	25,840
1955	25,940

(b) EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	375	195	180
Illegitimate	19	11	8
	<hr/> 394	<hr/> 206	<hr/> 188

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population mid 1955	15.19
Comparability Factor for Births	1.10
Therefore Birth Rate (comparable)	16.70
Birth Rate (England & Wales) per 1,000 Civilian Population	15.00

STILL BIRTHS.

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	7	5	2
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	0.30
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	20.05
Number of deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	52.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000) live births	22.84

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Sex	Age.	Cause.
Male	3 months.	Broncho Pneumonia
Male	2 years.	Congenital Heart Disease.
Female.	20 hours.	Prematurity.
Male.	2 days.	Cerebral Oedema.
Male.	19 hours.	Prematurity.
Male.	4 months.	Congenital Heart Disease.
Female.	3 days.	Peritonitis.
Male.	15 hours.	Prematurity.
Male.	10 minutes.	Hydrops Foetalis.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 9

UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate.	1	—	1
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 7

MARRIAGES

Number of Marriages taking place in Registry Offices during 1955	49
Number of Marriages taking place in Churches and Chapels.	131
	<hr/> 180
Marriage Rate per 1,000 Mid-year Population	6.9

DEATHS

Number of Deaths registered in Thornbury Rural District during 1955.	388
224 Males and 164 Females.	
Average Age of all Deaths in Thornbury Rural District during 1955.	69.09 years
Average Age of Transferable Deaths in Thornbury Rural District during 1955.	56.64 years
Number of Male Deaths of Residents in Thornbury Rural District	174
Average Age.	70.22 years.
Number of Male Transferable Deaths	50
Average Age	53.58 years
Average Age of all Male Deaths in Thornbury R.D.	66.51 yrs.
Number of Female Deaths of Residents in Thornbury Rural District	136
Average Age	74.78 years
Number of Female Transferable Deaths	28
Average Age	62.10 years
Average Age of all Female Deaths in Thornbury Rural District	72.61 years.
This makes the Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	14.94
Death Rate, England & Wales. per 1,000 Civilian Population.	11.7
Comparability Factor for Deaths.	1.02
Therefore Death Rate (comparable) 1.02×14.94	= 15.23

REMARKS ON THE DEATH RATE

The Death Rate, as compared with Districts of similar size without a hospital for Chronic Sick, is very high and is again comparable to the high figure of 15.61 for 1954. The remarks I made in last year's Annual Report still apply as a very large proportion of the deaths registered as taking place in Thornbury Hospital do not reside there for more than a few days in many cases and indeed some only for a few hours. I have been written to, on occasions, by people considering taking up residence within the Thornbury Rural District and, first of all, enquiring about Statistics of Health in the Area, before making a final decision. This high death rate for a Rural Area could have a deleterious effect on decisions of this type, as it may give the impression that Thornbury Rural District is an unhealthy Area. For this reason, I do feel that the question of Thornbury Rural District accepting all the deaths taking place in Thornbury Hospital in their annual death statistics should be reviewed by the Registrar General or The Ministry of Local Government.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Causes of Deaths	Under							Total
	1 yr.	1-	5	15-	25-	45-	65- 75-	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4
2. Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung and bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	—	—	—	—	—	9	13	13
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	—	—	—	—	—	17	18	37
18. Coronary disease, angina	—	—	—	—	2	8	11	14
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	6
20. Other heart disease	2	—	—	2	2	5	21	62
21. Other circulatory disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
23. Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	4
24. Bronchitis	—	1	—	—	—	3	1	3
25. Other disease of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of postate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	—	—	2	2	3	6	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1
35. Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

388

DEATHS IN HOSPITALS OR NURSING HOMES

WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

Thornbury Hospital	...	...	...	...	146
Berkeley Hospital	..	...	...	...	10
Almondsbury Hospital	...	...	...	...	5
Hortham Hospital	...	...	...	...	8
					169

OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT.

Snowden Road Hospital, Bristol.	...	...	5
Southmead Hospital, Bristol.	...	...	30
Frenchay Hospital, Bristol.	...	...	6
St. Mary's Hospital, Bristol.	...	...	1
Dilke Hospital, Cinderford.	...	...	1
Winford Orthopaedic Hospital.	...	...	1
Ham Green, Hospital.	...	...	8
Bristol Royal Infirmary	...	...	9
St. Pauls Hospital, Cheltenham.	...	...	1
Royal Hospital, Gloucester.	...	...	2
Bristol General Hospital.	...	...	2
Evesham General Hospital.	...	...	1
Horton Rd. Hospital, Gloucester.	...	...	1
			<hr/> 68 <hr/>

Total Deaths (in all Hospitals) of Thornbury R.D. 237
237 Cases died in hospital or institution out of total of 388
Therefore 61% of the deaths occurred in hospitals.
This is a higher percentage than 1954 when the figure was 55.9%

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS AND SEX

			Males	Females	Total
0 - 1 years	...	...	7	2	9
1 - 10 years	...	...	2	1	2
10 - 20 years	...	...	4	1	5
20 - 30 years	...	...	4	—	4
30 - 40 years	...	...	4	2	6
40 - 50 years	...	...	7	5	12
50 - 60 years	...	...	26	12	38
60 - 70 years	...	...	50	25	75
70 - 80 years	...	...	60	53	113
80 - 90 years	...	...	54	56	110
90-100 years	...	...	6	7	13
			<hr/> 224	<hr/> 164	<hr/> 388 <hr/>

The oldest person to die during the year was a female aged 97 years.

MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR

Heart Disease including Coronary disease.	144 cases
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ...	72 cases
Cancer	65 cases
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases ...	26 cases
Pneumonia	19 cases

DEATHS IN PARISHES

Alkington	...	...	...	...	...	1
Almondsbury	...	...	...	...	...	39
Alveston	...	...	...	...	...	11
Aust	...	...	...	...	...	5
Berkeley	...	...	...	...	...	20
Charfield	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cromhall	...	...	...	...	...	7
Falfield	...	...	...	...	...	10
Hamfallow	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ham and Stone	...	...	...	...	...	4
Hill	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hinton	...	...	...	...	...	18
Oldbury-on-Severn	...	...	...	...	...	5
Olveston	...	...	...	...	...	8
Patchway	...	...	...	...	...	33
Rangeworthy	...	...	...	...	...	5
Redwick and Northwick	...	...	...	...	...	22
Rockhampton	...	...	...	...	...	5
Thornbury	...	...	...	...	...	178
Tortworth	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tytherington	...	...	...	...	...	4
						<hr/> 388 <hr/>

DEATHS IN MONTHS OF THE YEAR

	In the District	Out of the District	Total
January	42	7	49
February	22	3	25
March	36	8	44
April	33	8	41
May	22	6	28
June	20	2	22
July	19	8	27
August	20	4	24
September	22	8	30
October	19	6	25
November	21	8	29
December	34	10	44
			<hr/> 388 <hr/>

Therefore the worst months for deaths during 1955 were:- 1. January. 2. March and December. 3. April.

INWARD TRANSFERS.

Males	...	...	...	...	...	50
Females	...	...	...	...	...	28
						<hr/> 78 <hr/>

COMPARATIVE TABLES FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

Year	Population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Average Age of Death	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1950	25,180	222	8.8	61.42 yrs.	364	14.4	21.9
1951	25,410	311	12.59	65.22 yrs.	364	14.32	32.9
1952	25,310	276	11.22	69.3 yrs.	405	16.96	29.6
1953	25,670	315	12.27	68.2 yrs.	382	14.84	34.03
1954	25,840	393	15.21	70.05 yrs.	397	15.38	20.16
1955	25,940	388	14.94	69.09 yrs.	394	15.38	22.84

CANCER DEATHS

Cancer of Tongue and Naso-Pharynx	...	...	5
Cancer of Rectum	...	...	9
Cancer of Oesophagus	...	...	4
Cancer of Prostate	...	...	3
Cancer of Breast	...	...	9
Cancer of Bladder	...	...	5
Cancer of Stomach	...	...	11
Cancer of Lung or Bronchus	...	...	8
Lympho Sarcoma	...	...	1
Cancer of Pancreas	...	...	5
Cancer of Uterus or Cervix	...	...	1
Rodent Ulcer	...	...	1
Cancer of Ovaries	...	...	2
Myeloid Leukæmia	...	...	1
			65

There were 37 male deaths from Cancer and 28 Female Deaths, making a total of 65 deaths.

The average age of all Female Cancer Deaths during the year = 69.2 years.

The average age of all Male Cancer Deaths during the year = 68.75 years.

The average age of all Cancer Deaths during the year in the Thornbury Rural District Area = 69.0 years.

The most common sites of Cancer during the year were :-

1. Stomach.
2. Cancer of rectum or colon or breast.
3. Cancer of the lung or bronchus.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN PARISHES - 1955.

PARISH	Acute Polio-myelitis.				Encephalitis Acute										Tuberculosis										TOTAL
	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Measles.	Diphtheria	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Smallpox	Infective	Post Infectious	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid	Fevers	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Respiratory	Meninges and C.N.S.	Other	Malaria		
Alkington	4	...	...	...	3	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
Almondsbury	1	2	...	...	57	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Alveston	...	...	...	...	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aust	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Berkeley	14	2	...	...	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...
Charfield	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cromhall	1	...	1	...	7	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Falfield	1	...	...	...	12	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Hamfallow	9	...	...	...	10	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ham & Stone	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hinton	20	...	...	...	22	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Oldbury	...	4	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Olveston	...	...	2	...	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Patchway	...	1	1	...	99	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Rangeworthy	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Redwick & Northwick	1	3	...	1	55	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Rockhampton	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Thornbury	...	...	...	...	56	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Tortworth	...	...	...	...	13	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tytherington	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS:	54	12	4	1	442	...	23	19	1	5	2	2	1	7	18	...	5	...	594

INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS - 1955

<i>Disease</i>	Age Unknown	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-5 years	6-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-34 years	35-44 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	2	4	20	20	5	—	2	—	—	—	54
Whooping Cough	—	—	3	2	1	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	12
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	4
(b) Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Measles	2	3	33	37	47	164	136	13	5	1	—	1	—	442
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	3	1	—	11	4	23
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	5	2	1	—	—	—	19
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	5
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis:														
(a) Respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	6	2	1	18
(b) Meninges & C.N.S.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Other	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	5
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS:	4	4	38	43	53	192	167	28	17	20	6	17	5	594

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47).

REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION TO SUITABLE PREMISES.

During the year a number of cases were investigated by myself, but it was not found necessary to take compulsory measures under the Act for removal. In each case persuasion worked and the old person was removed to a home or hospital for chronic sick.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

1. LOCAL AUTHORITY: Thornbury R.D. Year 1955.

2. FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected) RETURN TO R.G.

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
—	—	—	1	1

3. OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS.

Total Outbreaks 1. Total Cases 1.

OUTBREAKS DUE TO :-

(a) Chemical Poisons	...	...	...	—
(b) Salmonella Organisms	...	...	...	1
(c) Staphylococci (including Toxin	...	...	...	—
(d) C. I. botulinum	...	...	...	—
(e) Other Bacteria	...	...	...	—

4. OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE

Total Outbreaks: Nil. Total Cases: Nil.

5. SINGLE CASES.

Agent identified	...	...	...	1
Unknown causes	...	...	...	—

TOTAL: 1

INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES.

These certificates have to be countersigned by the Medical Officer of Health for the District in which the General Practitioner resides who has carried out the vaccination.

During the year thirty-one of these have been stamped and countersigned by me.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNITY INDEX

Annual Return for Gloucestershire - Year Ending 31st December.
1955

Age on 31/12/55 i.e. born in year.	Under 1 1955	1 - 4 1951-1954	5 - 9 1946-1950	10 - 14 1941-1945	Total Under 15
(a) Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1951-1955.	452	17516	17296	10493	45757
(b) Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1941-1950	—	—	11134	13714	24848
(c) Estimated Mid-Year Child Population	6810	27490	73100		107400
Immunity Index 100 A/C	6.6	63.7	38.0		42.6

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

RETURN FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1955.

CARRIED OUT IN THE THORNBURY RURAL DIST.

	Under 1 year	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 - 9 Years	10 - 14 Years	Total
G.P.	35(24)	144(27)	21(2)	7(2)	2	17(2)	—	226(57)
L.A.	9	6	2	5	3	22	2	49

CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED MAINTENANCE DOSES DURING 1955.

	3 - 4 Years	5 - 9 Years	10 - 14 Years	Total
G.P.	1	12	1	14
L.A.	—	233	103	326

VACCINATION RETURN

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

Under Year	1 Year	2 - 4 years	5-14 yrs.	15 years & Over	Total			
			Vaccination	Re-Vaccination	Vaccination	Re-Vaccination		
121	16	10	13	5	16	24	176	29

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION RETURN

FOR PERIOD 3rd JUNE TO 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

Born 1955			1954			1953		
G.P.	L.A.	Total	G.P.	L.A.	Total	G.P.	L.A.	Total
9	1	10	1	—	1	4	—	4
1952			1951			Totals		
G.P.	L.A.	Total	G.P.	L.A.	Total	G.P.	L.A.	Total
—	1	1	1	—	1	15	2	17

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'tory		Respiratory		Non-Resp'tory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15 —	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 —	5	4	1	—	1	—	—	—
35 —	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 —	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 —	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS:	14	12	4	1	2	—	—	—

CASES REMAINING ON REGISTER.

	M	F	Total
Pulmonary	94	61	155
Non-Pulmonary	15	10	25
	<hr/> 109	<hr/> 71	<hr/> 180

Thornbury was successful in obtaining the services of the Mass X-ray Unit from 28th September to 3rd October.

This Service was widely used during its stay, and on the last day so many people attended that some had to be refused.

During this period 1009 persons were dealt with - 460 males and 549 females.

Out of this total 39 only were recalled for large films, and of this total, 5 were under observation. Of these five it was found that 4 males and 1 female were inactive.

116 scholars were inspected and one male was under observation.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

I have pleasure in submitting meteorological report for the year 1955 and comparison figures for the year 1954.

			1954	1955
Total Rainfall	...	...	36.9"	24.79"
Monthly Rainfall				
January	...	...	2.5"	3.02"
February	...	...	3.4"	1.65"
March	...	...	3.3"	1.31"
April	...	...	.72"	0.99"
May	...	...	2.0"	4.00"
June	—	...	4.0"	2.85"
July	...	...	3.2"	0.11"
August	...	...	3.0"	1.45"
September	...	...	4.7"	1.14"
October	...	...	3.5"	1.64"
November	...	...	5.6"	3.68"
December	...	...	2.0"	2.95"
Wettest Day			6th June	3rd June
Average Temperature during 1954 (°F):			Max: 55/Min.45.	
Average Temperature during 1955 (°F)			Max: 56.6/Min.43.3	

Average Temperature in month (°F):				1954	1955
				Max/Min.	Max/Min
January	...	...		41.8/33.6	41.8/33.6
February	...	...		43.4/33.3	40.0/30.4
March	...	...		49.4/37.9	45.6/30.8
April	...	...		55.1/37.5	57.2/47.2
May	...	...		60.0/55.1	57.4/43.3
June	...	...		62.7/50.7	64.6/50.8
July	...	...		62.9/53.0	75.0/55.3
August	...	...		65.4/52.7	75.6/56.9
September	...	...		62.3/49.7	67.0/50.5
October	...	...		59.6/49.9	56.8/42.7
November	...	...		51.6/40.8	50.3/39.2
December	...	...		49.3/41.4	48.4/39.2
Hottest Day-				12th May	22nd & 23rd August
Coldest Day-				1st Jan.	28th Feb.
Driest Month-				April	July
Total Hours of bright sunshine				1273 hrs.	1612.3 hrs.
Sunniest Day-				7th July	30th May
Sunniest Month-				April	July
Prevailing Winds during the year.				Westerly	Westerly

The above information was obtained through the kind collaboration of the Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited, for whose assistance I express my thanks.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Thornbury Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is very pleasing to me in this the twentieth annual report which I have assisted in compiling to be able to record continuous progress in all the Department's activities.

In last year's annual report I placed on record a summary of the general changes which had been gradually taking place which affected the general mode of living of the inhabitants of the Rural District. On this occasion I feel it is only necessary for me to draw attention and to comment on some of the more specific items of the report which are hereinafter dealt with.

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government announced a change of policy concerning Housing, and the emphasis is now to be on Slum Clearance with differing rates of subsidy.

The Northern Water Scheme has now been completed with the laying of mains to Sharpness Docks and the Parish of Hill.

The West Gloucestershire Water Company are making extremely good progress in the laying of mains involved in the Southern and Central Water Scheme, and I think we can congratulate ourselves on the foresight and energy which brought these schemes to fruition.

It is anticipated that the Berkeley Sewerage Scheme will be completed towards the latter end of 1956. It is to be recorded that it has not yet been possible to obtain Ministry decisions for the next group of sewerage schemes covering Charfield, Olveston and Tockington, Almondsbury, and Wanswell.

It will be observed that there has been a slight increase in the total number of inspections carried out during the year by the staff of the department.

There has been a similar slight increase in the number of slaughtered animals which have been inspected.

On the other hand, there has been a reduction in the number of inspections made in connection with water supplies, which is attributable partially to staff changes and partially to the possibility of a new Gloucestershire County Council Bill which, if it becomes law, will enable the recoverable cost of water connections being increased from £20 to £40.

Steady progress has been maintained in all other branches of the Department's work, and these are referred to in more detail under the respective headings.

The staff have worked extremely well and have given me their full co-operation.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of the various committees, and the members of the Council for the confidence and courtesy which they have always extended to me.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

R. HUNTINGTON.

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

NATURE OF VISITS OR INSPECTIONS.

GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	394
Drainage	...	...	...	...	451
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	8
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	—
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	377
Factories (Workshops)	...	...	...	...	103
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	8
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	104
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	20
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	103
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	39
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	2094
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	—
Schools	...	...	...	...	6
Shops	...	...	...	...	37
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	150
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	2697
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	100
Sewage Sampling	...	...	...	...	3
New Buildings	...	...	...	...	799
Drain Tests and Inspections	...	...	...	...	1096
Building Licensing	...	...	...	...	1
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	27

HOUSING

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	230
Visits paid to above Houses	...	...	...	331

UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	194
Visits paid to above Houses	...	...	...	388

OVERCROWDING.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	2
Visits paid to above Houses	...	.....	...	3

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	102
Visits paid to above Houses	...	...	...
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	14

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	...	...	...	115
Visits re. Disinfection	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	19

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

INSPECTION OF MEAT.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	500
Visits to Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	—
Visits re. Meat Inspections	...	...	...	392
Visits to Butchers	...	...	...	11
Visits to Canteens	...	...	...	1
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	...	34
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	3
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	101
Visits to Grocers	...	...	...	22
Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	2
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	26
Visits to Market	...	...	...	31
Visits to Restaurants	...	...	...	9

VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH SAMPLING

Milk — Bacteriological	...	...	...	45
Milk — Biological	...	...	...	19
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	57
Food and Drug Samples	...	...	...
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	122
General Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	663

TOTAL: 12,090

NOTICES SERVED

Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	74
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	145
Prosecutions	...	...	...	1

HOUSING.

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government announced a change of policy concerning Housing.

Our preceding annual reports have shown there has been a steady reduction in the number of applicants for Council Houses, which appear to coincide with the national tendency. The policy has therefore resulted in the pronouncement of a differential in the rate of subsidy for new council houses. The effect of this has been to reduce the subsidy payment for new council houses intended to be erected to meet the general needs of the district, and to increase the subsidy payment for houses erected to deal with slum clearance proposals, overspills, new towns, etc.

For the time being, therefore, this Council has decided that upon completion of the current year's housing programme there shall be no further houses erected for the general needs of the district, and that the future building programme shall be concerned only with slum clearance proposals.

Here let me say that in rural districts there is a certain amount of objection to the use of the term "slum clearance",

and I think it would be more appropriate if it was referred to as “sub-standard housing”.

I think I must at this point record my concern over the fact that even up to the late date of the preparation of this report the previous year’s housing programme has not yet been completed.

In view of the recent policy on housing, I think we can congratulate ourselves that we had foreseen the possibility of changes when our slum clearance proposals were prepared and adopted, and I feel that every effort should now be made to implement our slum clearance proposals, which involves the demolition or improvement of 809 houses over a period of ten years. This averages out at say 80 houses per year.

Having regard to the procedure and usual delays, I think it would be desirable for the Council to plan on a 2 to 3 year basis, involving 160 to 240 houses. I think it must be appreciated that on this basis the Public Health Department in general, and the specific officer responsible for the survey, have a very considerable volume of work to perform during the ensuing years.

There has been a very definite increase in the number of private dwellings erected in the district. The total number of plans submitted during the year for the consideration of the Council under Building Bye-Laws, was 306. The detailed consideration necessary to ensure that proposals comply with the new Building Bye-Laws involves the Surveyor’s branch of the Department in a very considerable amount of extra work. I think the results of the department’s efforts can be judged to be worth while by virtue of the fact that we have not yet suffered from the effects of what is commonly known as “jerry building”, and the standard of work in new buildings can be said to be satisfactory.

COUNCIL HOUSING.

The maintenance of Council Houses—as in previous years—is undertaken by the Surveyor’s branch of the Department.

The work of day-to-day repairs is carried out by local builders on orders issued by the Department, which during the year numbered 1255.

Contracts are entered into for all larger schemes of maintenance and repair which, during the year covered the Provision and installation of mains water to 14 houses. Installation of electricity to 10 houses, and the External painting of 127 houses.

All these works have been programmed and carried out in accordance with the orders, specifications and plans prepared by the Department and completed in a workmanlike manner.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

INSPECTION OF MEAT.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	500
Visits to Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	—
Visits re. Meat Inspections	...	...	...	392
Visits to Butchers	...	...	...	11
Visits to Canteens	...	...	...	1
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	...	34
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	3
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	101
Visits to Grocers	...	...	...	22
Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	2
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	26
Visits to Market	...	...	...	31
Visits to Restaurants	...	...	...	9

VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH SAMPLING

Milk — Bacteriological	...	...	...	45
Milk — Biological	...	...	...	19
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	57
Food and Drug Samples	...	...	...
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	122
General Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	663

TOTAL: 12,090

NOTICES SERVED

Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	74
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	145
Prosecutions	...	...	...	1

HOUSING.

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government announced a change of policy concerning Housing.

Our preceding annual reports have shown there has been a steady reduction in the number of applicants for Council Houses, which appear to coincide with the national tendency. The policy has therefore resulted in the pronouncement of a differential in the rate of subsidy for new council houses. The effect of this has been to reduce the subsidy payment for new council houses intended to be erected to meet the general needs of the district, and to increase the subsidy payment for houses erected to deal with slum clearance proposals, overspills, new towns, etc.

For the time being, therefore, this Council has decided that upon completion of the current year's housing programme there shall be no further houses erected for the general needs of the district, and that the future building programme shall be concerned only with slum clearance proposals.

Here let me say that in rural districts there is a certain amount of objection to the use of the term "slum clearance",

TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNCIL HOUSES :

Alkington	...	...	...	...	...	19
Almondsbury	...	...	...	...	...	156
Alveston	...	...	...	...	...	69
Berkeley	...	...	...	...	...	106
Charfield	...	...	...	...	...	58
Cromhall	...	...	...	...	...	36
Falfield	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ham & Stone	...	...	...	...	...	20
Hamfallow	...	...	...	...	...	73
Hinton	..	...	...	...	...	66
Oldbury	...	...	...	...	...	12
Olveston	...	...	...	...	...	34
Patchway	...	...	...	...	...	284
Rangeworthy	...	...	...	...	...	18
Redwick and Northwick	...	...	...	...	...	80
Rockhampton	...	...	...	...	...	4
Thornbury	...	...	...	...	...	231
Tytherington	...	...	...	...	...	42
						— 1314

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES SEWERED :

Berkeley	...	...	...	...	...	90
Hamfallow	...	...	...	...	...	61
Hinton	...	...	...	...	...	56
Patchway	...	...	...	...	...	284
Thornbury	...	...	...	...	...	231
Redwick & Northwick	...	...	...	...	...	36
						— 758

TOTAL HOUSES TO BE SEWERED :

Station Road, Berkeley	16
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES SERVED BY A SEWAGE PLANT :

Alkington	...	...	...	...	...	11
Almondsbury	...	...	...	...	...	96
Alveston	...	...	...	...	...	57
Charfield	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cromhall	...	...	...	...	...	14
Falfield	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ham & Stone	...	...	...	...	...	12
Olveston	...	...	...	...	...	21
Rangeworthy	...	...	...	...	...	4
Redwick & Northwick	...	...	...	...	...	18
Rockhampton	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tytherington	...	...	...	...	...	26
						— 279

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES SERVED WITH CESSPITS EMPTIED BY THE COUNCIL :

Almondsbury :						
Severn Road.	...	...	...	...	...	10
Moorhouse Lane	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ham & Stone: Gloucester Road.	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hinton: Purton	...	...	...	...	...	10
Oldbury: West End	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tytherington: Woodlands	...	...	...	...	...	16
						56

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES SERVED WITH CESSPITS FOR WHICH THE
TENANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE :

Alkington :					
Swanley	...	...	...	...	8
Almondsbury					
Blackhorse Hill	...	...	...	...	6
Catbrain Lane	...	...	...	...	10
Over Lane	...	...	...	...	12
Shaymoor	...	...	...	...	12
Telephone Buildings, Hallen.	...	...	...	...	2
Alveston :					
Rudgeway	...	...	...	...	12
Berkeley :					
Station Road.	...	...	...	...	16
Charfield :					
Little Bristol	...	...	...	...	30
North View	...	...	...	...	8
South View	...	...	...	...	10
Cromhall :					
Jubilee Lane	...	...	...	...	6
Longcross	...	...	...	...	8
Rectory Lane	...	...	...	...	8
Hamfallow :					
Wanswell	...	...	...	...	12
Oldbury :					
West End	...	...	...	...	4
West Marsh	...	...	...	...	4
Olveston :					
Elberton Road.	...	...	...	...	10
Oldown	...	...	...	...	3
Rangeworthy :					
Manor Road.	...	...	...	...	8
Wickwar Road.	...	...	...	...	6
Redwick & Northwick :					
Eastfield Road.	...	...	...	...	6
Northwick	...	...	...	...	4
Passage Road	...	...	...	...	8
Swanmoor	...	...	...	...	8

221

ACTION TAKEN DURING THE YEAR, 1955.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

	No. of Houses	No. of Persons Displaced
(a) Houses demolished as a result of Section 11.	2	7
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	6	6
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	—	—
(d) Houses made fit after service of formal notice under Section 9 and 11.	3	4

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Miscellaneous Provisions) ACT, 1953

Houses closed under Section 10.	4	7
---------------------------------	---	---

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

1. Proposals received	...	...	...	81
Informal:	20			
Formal	61			
2. Applications approved		...	...	61
3. Informal and formal proposals not proceeded with				16
4. Proposals refused	...	...	...	—

The modified conditions necessary to enable properties to rank for grant under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, has resulted in a continued increase in the number of applications. A very considerable amount of detailed work is involved in inspecting properties, scrutinising schemes and checking estimates in connection with these proposals.

The Scheme is, however, in my opinion now operating very successfully, and has given new life to many sub-standard properties.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Rural District is within the statutory area of supply of three water undertakings :-

- (a) Northern Water Scheme.
Which covers six Parishes in the North of the District and is served by the Gloucester City Council.
- (b) Southern & Central Water Scheme.
Which covers the whole of the central area and a portion of the south of the District and is served by the West Gloucestershire Water Co.
- (c) A small area in the South West comprising parts of the two Parishes of Almondsbury and Redwick & Northwick and is served by the Bristol Waterworks Co.

The Northern Water Scheme has been completed by the extension of mains water into the area of the Sharpness Docks and to the Parish of Hill.

The Southern and Central Water Scheme of the West Gloucestershire Water Co., has proceeded very satisfactory, and I think all concerned with the project are to be congratulated on the progress and programming of the work, which has already brought benefit to a large part of the rural district.

It has been found necessary to continue statutory action to secure the installation of mains water to properties, and this has again involved the staff in making surveys, scheduling, costing, serving notices, preparing plans and specifications, obtaining tenders, supervision of work, etc.

In my opinion this is a well worth while aspect of public health work, and it may be necessary to continue these activities for many years if we are to ensure that the general public derive the full benefit from the services which have been provided.

When the County Council Bill is placed on the Statute Book it will allow for an increase in the amount recoverable from

the owner of a property where work is carried out by the Council in default of a notice from the present statutory limit of £20 to the new statutory limit of £40.

Except for two or three private bore holes the remainder of the areas of the District not yet provided with a mains water supply are served by shallow wells which have been proved to have been subject to pollution and of very variable quantity and wholesomeness.

All Council Houses have been connected up to mains water as soon as this becomes available, and by the end of 1956 I estimate that all our Council Houses will have a public supply of water.

Only eight of the post war Council Houses continue to draw supplies from rain water tanks which are augmented by the haulage of mains water.

During this year in the District (in common with a large part of the country) we suffered from drought conditions, and it was necessary to extend the water haulage facilities to serve various private properties, for which a nominal charge was made.

WATER SUPPLY POSITION IN THE THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

Parish	No. of Properties	No. of Properties supplied with mains water	Remarks
WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER CO. AND BRISTOL WATERWORKS.			
Almondsbury	845	822	
Aust	123	35	
Alveston	447	417	
Charfield	253	10	
Cromhall	252	132	
Falfield	130	29	
Oldbury on Severn	171	—	Southern & Central Water Scheme.
Olveston	391	317	
Patchway	1588	1580	
Rangeworthy	83	10	
Redwick & Northwick	524	550	
Rockhampton	44	—	
Thornbury	944	787	
Tortworth	54	18	
Tytherington	174	159	

GLOUCESTER CORPORATION WATER DEPT.

Alkington	199	84	Northern Water Scheme.
Berkeley	353	260	
Hamfallow	299	175	
Hinton	446	329	
Ham & Stone Hill	180 40	86 —	
TOTALS:	7540	5800	

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES.

A—Gloucester Corporation from 10, Park View Road, Berkeley.

B—West Gloucestershire Water Company, from
35, Eastland Ave., Thornbury

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.	A Parts per million	B Parts per million
Total Solids	540	414
Loss on ignition	116	70
Mineral Matter	424	344
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	—	—
Total Hardness	288 = 20.1°	284 = 19.9°
(a) Permanent	132 = 9.2°	32 = 2.2°
(b) Temporary	156 = 10.9°	252 = 17.7°
Chlorine (as Chloride)	107	37
Nitrogen as saline and free Ammonia	—	—
Nitrogen as Albuminoid Ammonia	0.02	0.01
Nitrogen as Nitrates	2.94	0.56
Nitrogen as Nitrites	—	—
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4 hours at 80°F)	—	—
Poisonous Metals	—	—
Free Carbon Dioxide	—	—
Silica (SiO ₂)	—	—
Residual Chlorine	—	0.02
Sediment	—	—
COMMENT	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

WATER SAMPLING.

During the year 44 water samples were obtained from 42 sources. Five samples of mains water were reported as satisfactory.

The remaining 37 sources were obtained from bathing pools and wells. One bathing pool result eventually gave satisfactory results upon re-sampling, and unofficial private action was taken to secure the discontinuance of the other pool for bathing purposes.

Of the remaining 35 sources which were obtained from private wells, eight were satisfactory and 27 unsatisfactory.

Wherever possible statutory action was taken to secure the provision of mains water supplies to the premises served by the unsatisfactory wells, and this was effective in 25 cases.

Of the remaining two cases, mains water is not likely to become available for some considerable time, and the occupiers were advised on the precautionary measures to be taken for the time being.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

TOPOGRAPHY.

The lower tidal reaches of the River Severn form the western boundary of the Rural District. The major portion of the district is within the Severn Catchment Area with a small portion in the south-west corner of the district coming within the Bristol Avon Catchment Area.

The principal watercourse in the District is the Little Avon River rising at Wickwar (Sodbury R.D.) which passes through Charfield, Tortworth, Alkington, Ham & Stone, eventually discharging via the tidal pill at Berkeley into the River Severn.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The sewers at Sharpness and Severn Beach discharge without treatment into the tidal reaches of the River Severn. The old sewers at Berkeley discharge untreated sewage into the tidal pill, but this will be remedied upon completion of the new Sewerage scheme, and thereafter the old sewers will be used for the discharge of storm water.

An old sewer at Charfield discharges small quantities of untreated sewage into the River Avon. The proposed sewerage scheme for Charfield, which is at present with the Ministry, involves the construction of a pumping station in our district and the construction of a sewage plant in the Dursley R.D. to serve parts of the two districts, and the work of cleansing the Bradley, Hortham, Filton and Bradley Brooks has now been completed, and it is understood that the Avon River Board will henceforth accept responsibility for their maintenance. It would be an advantage if this scheme of improving and taking over the watercourses could be extended farther up the sources of the Hortham and Bradley Brooks so as to ensure their proper future maintenance.

From time to time we come across the existence of old culverts which appear to be "sewers" under the definition of the Public Health Act. (Foul ditches are also being found to exist in many places.) I must, therefore, reiterate the statement which I made in my last report to the effect that one can confidently say that wherever there is a community with a mains water supply and no proper sewerage scheme, foul ditches are bound to exist. There are examples of these at Alkington, Aust, Almondsbury, Olveston, Redwick, Hinton, Hamfallow, Ham & Stone, Berkeley and Thornbury.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A schedule of public and privately owned drainage and sewerage schemes is attached to this report.

The existence of foul ditches in various parts of the district serves to emphasise the need for continuing the provision of further sewerage schemes.

The following schemes have been submitted to the Ministry and their decision is awaited :-

Charfield
Olveston - Tockington
Almondsbury
Wanswell

and no starting date has yet been given for the principal sewerage scheme at Alveston.

All Council Houses sewage plants are maintained by direct labour. Four men are employed on these duties, of whom two form a mobile team servicing the various small plants. All the plants are regularly serviced and generally well maintained. The standard of effluent discharge from the smaller plant is not always entirely satisfactory.

The emptying of bucket closet contents is undertaken in the Parishes of Berkeley and Hamfallow. The method of collection and disposal is crude, offensive and insanitary. It should be discontinued as soon as sewerage schemes will permit.

Throughout the district cesspits are emptied by private arrangement with two firms which are operating for this sole purpose.

SCHEDULE OF SEWAGE PLANTS AND SEWERS.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Situation</i>	<i>Sewage Plant</i>	<i>Properties Served</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
ALKINGTON ALMONDSBURY	Newport	Sewage Plant	11	Council Estate
	"Swan Inn" (P.H.)	Sewage Plant	5	Public House
	Marshall Crescent	Sewage Plant	14	Council Estate
	Hallen	Sewage Plant	22	Council Estate
	Easter Compton	Sewage Works	18	Council Estate
	Woodlands	Sewage Works	1	Caravan Park
	Cribbs Causeway	Sewage Works	1	Public House
	Hortham Hospital	Sewage Works	1	Mental Institution
	Woodhouse Down	Sewage Works	42	Council Estate
	Village	Sewage Works	1	Hospital
ALVESTON	Quarry Road	Sewage Works	46	Council Estate
	Greenhill	Sewage Works	10	Council Estate
	"Silverhill"	Sewage Works	1	Private School
	Town	Old Sewers	290	Defective — New Scheme nearing completion
BERKELEY	The Lynch	Sewage Tanks	54	Council Estate — to be connected to new sewer.
	Manor Lane Village	Sewage Plant	10	Council Estate
CHARFIELD	Townwell	Old Sewer	20	Approx. — New scheme proposed.
	"The Huntsman" (P.H.)	Sewage Plant	14	Council Estate
	Sundays Hill	Sewage Plant	1	Public House
	Eastwood Park	Sewage Plant	6	Council Estate
HAM & STONE HINTON	Stone	Sewage Plant	1	Home Office School
	Sharpness	Sewage Plant	18	Council Estate
	Purton	New Sewers	240	Re-sewered.
	Oldown	Old Sewers	20	Fouling ditches.
OLVESTON	Olveston & Tockington	Sewage Plant	11	Council Estate
		Old Sewers	50	Discharges to ditches — New Scheme proposed.
	Parish	Public Sewers	1600	Joint Sewerage Committee.
	Berrowsmead	Sewage Plant	4	Council Estate
PATCHWAY RANGEWORTHY ROCKHAMPTON	Church View	Sewage Plant	4	Council Estate
	Severn Beach	Ejector Station	225	New Scheme.
	Wick Road	Sewage Plant	18	Council Estate
	Oldbury Lane	Sewage Plant	1000	Enlarged.
THORNBURY TORTWORTH TYTHERINGTON	Leyhill Prison	Sewage Plant	70	H.O. Prison & Wardens Quarters.
	School	Sewage Plant	1	School.
	Southlands	Sewage Plant	28	Council Estate.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

COLLECTION.

Combined collection of refuse and salvage is carried on through the district by direct labour.

The service is operated by :-

- 1 Foreman Driver
- 3 Driver Loaders
- 6 Loaders
- 2 Refuse Tip Attendants
- 2 Paper Baling Attendants
- 2 Mobile Sewage Works Attendants

The fleet consists of :-

- 2, 10 cu.yd. Dennis side loading lorries.
Registered 1945 and 1949.
- 2, 11 cu.yd. Ford side loading lorries
Registered 1950.
- 1, 4 ton ex-Army Ford truck lorry
Registered 1948.
- 1, Land Rover, Registered 1950.

There continues to be a steady increase in the number of loads collected.

DISPOSAL AND REFUSE TIPS.

Refuse is disposed of by tipping into disused quarries and on to low lying areas of land, etc. The standard of tip maintenance has considerably improved during the year.

The time is fast approaching when an increase in staff and vehicles will have to receive attention.

Accommodation for the disposal of refuse is likely to become a very acute problem in the near future.

REFUSE TIPS ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

1. Oakhunter Lane, Berkeley.

The tip is rented by the Council. The site consists of a disused clay pit part filled with water, and is being used for the disposal of refuse and closet contents collected from the northern parishes of the district.

2. The Quarry, Alveston.

This is a disused limestone quarry of approximately two acres which is gradually being filled in shallow layers and is maintained in excellent condition, but due to the proximity of houses, and by special resolution of the Council it is only used during the winter months, and receives the refuse collected from the parishes in the central parts of the district. This land is owned by the Council.

3. Littlewood, Cromhall.

This tip is situated in a disused limestone quarry rented from the Tortworth Estate Co., and is used for the disposal of refuse collected chiefly from the parishes of Charfield, Cromhall and Tortworth.

FREQUENCY OF REFUSE COLLECTION.

PARISH	PLACE	FREQUENCY
Almondsbury	Lower Almondsbury	Twice Monthly
	Easter Compton	Twice Monthly
	Cribbs Causeway etc.	Twice Monthly
	Hallen	Monthly
Alkington	Whole Parish	Monthly
Alveston	Whole Parish	Twice Monthly
Aust	Whole Parish	Monthly
Berkeley	Whole Parish	Weekly
Charfield	Whole Parish	Twice Monthly
Cromhall	Part Parish	Monthly
Cromhall	Part Parish	Twice Monthly
Falfield	Whole Parish	Monthly
Hamfallow	Whole Parish	Weekly
Ham & Stone	Whole Parish	Monthly
Hill	Whole Parish	Monthly
Hinton	Whole Parish	Weekly
Oldbury	Whole Parish	Monthly
Olveston	Whole Parish	Twice Monthly
Patchway	Whole Parish	Weekly
Rangeworthy	Whole Parish	Monthly
Redwick & Northwick	Redwick & Severn Beach	Weekly
	Northwick	Monthly
Rockhampton	Whole Parish	Monthly
Thornbury	Lighting Area	Weekly
	Other Parts	Monthly
Tortworth	Whole Parish	Monthly
Tytherington	Whole Parish	Monthly

There has been a substantial increase in the tonnage and value of salvage collected and disposed of during the year.

Income from salvage has increased by more than 75% over the last year, as per the following table :-

	1954	1955
Paper	947 8 8	1886 17 2
Rags	147 18 3	152 8 9
Iron	176 12 1	149 16 8
Metals	35 12 5	75 7 3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1307 11 5	£2264 9 10
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Due recognition should be given to the Public Cleansing Staff for their large scale effort in the collection of salvageable material.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Council provides and maintains four public conveniences, each with accomodation for men and women, at :-

Berkeley.
Patchway.
Severn Beach.
Thornbury.

Part time cleaners are employed for each.

The Council is also considering proposals for the provision of a public convenience at Almondsbury.

CAMPING

All the conditions referred to in my report for 1953 continue to exist.

Problems are being caused by all the year round occupation of camps which were only intended for summer use. The lettings committees are faced with considerable difficulties in deciding the priorities to be afforded in re-housing some of the camp occupants.

In January 1955 a conference was held between the Camping Sites Sub-Committee and Camping Site Operators. The Committee expressed their dissatisfaction with conditions on many of the sites and determined to use the remedies available to the Council.

The site operators expressed their readiness to co-operate and the conference was generally successful with very frank exchange of views which resulted in general agreement on :-

1. An exchange of old licences for new licences containing model conditions.
2. A standard of general sanitary conditions.
3. A period of the year during which camping in certain low lying areas of the district should not take place.

As the result of this conference, a number of camp site operators have surrendered their original licences and been issued with licences containing the model conditions. There are still some camp site operators who have not conformed to the decisions of the conference, and the conditions of some of the camps are still far from satisfactory.

A considerable amount of time has been spent during the year on survey and reports, and I believe that in some cases there will be no improvement until proceedings are instituted for some of the more flagrant breaches of licensed conditions.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

(1) Inspections for the purpose of provision as to health

Premises	No. of Premises	Inspections	No. of Notices	Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	87	102	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	104	110	9	—

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	7	7	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	2	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	3	3	—	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	12	—	2
			No. of Prosecutions Nil.	

OUTWORK. (Section 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of Instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Carding of buttons, etc.	13	—	—	—	—	—
Glove making	2	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	15	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Work under this heading has continued to increase. The number has now increased to a total of 11,679 carcasses slaughtered and inspected during the current year.

Reports on the sanitary conditions of the slaughterhouses resulted in a number of applications for the re-opening of old slaughterhouses being refused.

No. of licensed slaughterhouses	3
No in regular use.	3
No. of licensed slaughtermen.	33

The duties involved 500 visits to slaughterhouses.

Carcases Inspected	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	32	—	47	105	11,679	—
Number inspected	32	—	47	105	11,679	—
CARCASSES CONDEMNED						
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	4	6	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	17	—	—	30	809	—
Percentage of carcasses inspected affected with disease (other than Tuberculosis)	53.12%	—	—	32.38%	6.97%	—
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	8	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	494	—
Percentage of carcasses affected with Tuberculosis.	—	—	—	—	4.20%	—
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned.	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD PREPARATION AND HANDLING

The various food premises in the district are listed below :-

1. REGISTERED PREMISES.

Preserved Food	...	...	...	...	10
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	75
Dairies registered under					
Milk & Dairies Regs., 1949	...	...	...	...	14
					<hr/> 104 <hr/>

2. UNREGISTERED PREMISES

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	16
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	50
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	64
Cafes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	15
						<hr/> 157 <hr/>
						<hr/> TOTAL: 261 <hr/>

In the present year visits to these types of premises were routine, and generally it was found that good standards of hygiene existed.

During the year successful proceedings were taken against the owner of a diseased hen carcase which was exposed for sale.

UN SOUND FOOD REGISTER.

During the year the following weight of food was inspected and certified as unsound :-

Meat (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	6431½ lbs.
Meat (Other Diseases)	...	...	...	1370 lbs.
Tins and jars of sundry foods	...	...	...	351¼ lbs.
				<hr/> 8153¼ lbs. <hr/>

ICE CREAM

Four premises in the district are registered for the manufacture of ice cream, one of which operates very occasionally, and 75 premises registered for sale, chiefly of the pre-packed product.

A total of 68 samples taken during the year produced the following results :-

Grade I	...	...	...	...	36	=	52.35%
Grade II	...	...	...	...	24	=	35.29%
Grade III	...	...	...	...	6	=	8.82%
Grade IV	...	...	...	...	2	=	3.54%
					<hr/> 68		<hr/> 100.000%

Seven of the above samples submitted for chemical examination gave satisfactory results.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

A total of 77 samples and 1 bottle rinse were taken, the result of which are set out below.

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples from producers and producer/retailers, the results were commicated to the County Milk Production Officer.

MILK SAMPLE RESULTS.

RESULTS FOR YEAR, 1955

Designation	No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T.	57	45	12
Pasteurised	13	12	1
Sterilised	3	3	—
Non-Designated	4	4	—
	<hr/> 77	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 13

37 of the above samples were submitted for biological examination and in each case was negative for tubercle bacilli. Six of the samples were positive for Brucella Abortus. The necessary heat treatment precautions were arranged in these cases.

MILK PRODUCTION.

Diary Farms in District	...	...	...	447
Number of T.T. Herds	...	...	...	235
Percentage of T.T. Supplies	...	...	...	52.57%

TABLE IV.
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	1	2	3	4	
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including business premises)	Total of Cols. 1 2 3 & 4.
1. Total No. of properties in Local Authority's District.	20	7140	528	1100	8788
2. No of Properties inspected as a result of :-					
(a) Notification	—	65	6	22	93
(b) Survey	20	286	89	91	486
3. Total Inspections carried out including re-inspections	178	308	156	241	883
4. No. of Properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	6	94	20	30	150
(b) Mice					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	1	26	17	17	61
5. No. of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by the L.A. (Figures should <i>not</i> exceed those given at Section 4)	7	120	6	24	157
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments.	14	124	6	27	171
7. No. of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act.					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural work. (i.e. proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Section 4 of the Act.	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal proceedings.	—	—	—	—	—
10. No. of 'block' control schemes carried out.	—	—	—	—	4

The operations of this service has continued to function very satisfactorily.

There have been no major infestations in the district, and I am now of the opinion that due to the past and present efforts which have been made that the rat population is now down to a lower level than at any previous time.

Nailsworth

Urban District Council

Chairman :

Dr. M. H. DANIELS

Vice-Chairman :

A. C. TUFT, Esq.

Clerk to the Council :

R. D. CLARKE, Esq.

Councillors :

Mrs. A. Waine, J.P.

F. Grant, Esq.

M. G. Smith, Esq.

W. S. Wilson, Esq.

R. J. Davis, Esq.

E. A. Young, Esq.

F. Beckett, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

W. DAVIDSON-LAMB, M.C., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. to 31/5/55

W. J. DOUGLAS COOPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H. from 1/9/55

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

W. E. LARGE, M.S.I.A.

Rodent Officer : H. H. GOODINGS

Clerk : Miss E. P. STEVENS

PART 1.
REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	...	...	...	1,596
Population (1951 Census)	...	...	...	3,523
Population (Registrar General 1955)	...	...	...	3,710
Number of inhabited houses (Private Enterprise)				1,025
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	172
Rateable value	...	...	...	£18,802
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£70

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS.

	M	F	Total	
	20	22	42	
Legitimate	19	22	41	
Illegitimate	1	—	1	
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 mid 1955 population				11.05
Birth Rate, England & Wales per 1,000 Civilian Population.				15.0
Comparability Factor for Births				1.10
Therefore Birth Rate (Comparable)				11.16

STILL BIRTHS.

	M	F	Total	
	2	1	3	
Legitimate	2	1	3	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 mid year population				0.81
Still Birth Rate, England & Wales, per 1,000 Civilian Population				0.35
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births				66.66
Still Births (per 1,000 Live and Still Births England and Wales)				23.2

DEATHS.

Total Deaths in District	...	...	...	48
19 of these were Males and 29 Females.				
Average Age of all Male Deaths (years)	...	...	...	71.74
Average Age of all Female Deaths (years)	...	...	...	72.55
Average Age of all Deaths taking place in Nailsworth Urban District during 1955 (years)	...	...	...	72.23
Death Rate, England & Wales per 1,000 Civilian Population	...	...	...	11.7
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 mid year population	...	...	...	12.94
Comparability Factor for Deaths	...	...	...	0.76
Therefore Death Rate (Comparable)	...	...	...	9.83

There were no deaths of infants under 1 year of age which speaks well for the care given to babies by the mothers, nurses and general practitioners in the area.

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	...	—
---	-----	---

CAUSES OF DEATHS

Causes of Deaths	Under								Total
	1 yr.	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung and bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	8
18. Coronary disease, angina	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4
20. Other Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	6	9
21. Other circulatory disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
25. Other disease of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
35. Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
									48

The oldest resident who died during the year was a female of 96 years and there were two males and one female who died at 91 years.

THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT WERE :-

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	20 cases
Cancer	...	...	...	...	8 cases
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	...	...	...	...	8 cases
Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	5 cases

DEATHS IN HOSPITALS

Stroud General Hospital	...	...	...	4
Lydney & District Hospital	...	...	...	1
Royal Hospital, Gloucester	...	...	...	4
St. Paul's Hospital, Cheltenham	...	...	...	1
Bristol Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	1
				<hr/> 11 <hr/>

Therefore 11 of the 48 deaths took place in Hospital = 22.96%

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table gives details of notifications received during the year:-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS, 1955

Disease	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-5 years	6-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-34 years	35-44 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Age Unknown	Total
Food Poisoning	—	1	1	1	2	2	1	—	6	—	1	1	—	16
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Measles	3	7	11	16	40	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	136
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
														TOTAL: 164

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES.

M	F	Total
1	—	1

DEATHS

M	F	Total
—	—	—

The one case notified was glandular, and during the year one tuberculous patient was re-housed.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following Immunisations and Vaccinations have been carried out within the District during 1955 by General Practitioners and Local Authority Doctors:-

NO. OF CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF PRIMARY IMMUNISATION.

	Under 1 Year	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years	Total
G.P.	13(8)	15(11)	—	—	1	—	—	29(19)
L.A.	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	6

NO. OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED A RE-INFORCING DOSE.

G.P.	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	8
L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	11

Note—Figures in brackets denote combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough injections included in totals.

VACCINATION					
Under 1 Year 13	1 Year 3	2 - 4 Years —	5 - 14 Years —	15 years or over —	Total 16

RE-VACCINATION					
—	—	—	4	4	8

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION

	Born 1955	1954
G.P.	1	1
L.A.	1	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

No cases arose during the year calling for action under this Act.

PART II.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting my second Annual Report to you may I draw your attention to the following points:-

MEAT INSPECTION

It is a matter of considerable displeasure to myself to report the very low number of animals killed in the district and intended for human consumption that were inspected by myself, and it is my ardent desire that the year 1956 will see a radical change in either the Ministry's or the Council's policy with regard to meat inspection.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Whilst you will note in the body of the report that Food Hygiene does not appear to take up much written space, considerable effort has been and is being carried on with Food Traders, Factory managements, etc. It is hoped that when the new Food and Drugs Acts, and the Food Hygiene Regulations actually come into being, greater powers will be available.

ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.

Whilst the effects of the Industrial Revolution were not felt so strongly with this district as in the conurbations of the Midlands and North, nevertheless the standard of the cottage type house from the amenity and structural angle is poor, and it is hoped in the future to devote a proper share of your technical officers time and energy to this most needed work, in bringing unfit property to a modern standard of sanitation, or the demolition of other properties, the repair and improvement of which cannot be economically justified.

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES.

Bacteriological examinations of private water supplies continue to show heavy pollution, and considerable effort is often necessary to persuade owners and occupiers to connect to the mains supply.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Seven applications have been received from owners of property. It is worth while noting that in no cases were applications received from the owners of tenanted property except where the tenant was a relative of the owner. The total amount of grants were £1,472.

The administration of the improvement grant provisions of the Housing Acts, provide a satisfying contrast to the demolition provisions.

DEPOT.

The Council's depot is manned by One Foreman and Five men, one of whom is employed on a part-time basis, and with the exception of Housing Repairs they carry out the whole of the Council's direct labour activities, ranging from Street Cleaning and Highway Maintenance, Sewer Cleansing and Maintenance to the care of the Playing Fields and Gardens.

A considerable amount of time has been spent during the year on investigating the existence of underground stone mines, and in part filling the one at Barnfield Estate with earth.

HOUSING REPAIRS.

Housing repairs staff consist of one Tradesman and one labourer, and they have more than a full time job in maintaining the Council's property.

Twenty Two houses were painted by contract and it is sincerely hoped that further work of this nature will be undertaken in the ensuing year.

GENERAL.

In conclusion may I bear a very sincere tribute to the Council's Medical Officer of Health for his constant interest in the work of my department, to the loyalty and co-operation of the Council's administrative and Manual Staff, and to the efficiency and willingness of Miss E. Stevens my clerk.

I am, Sir,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. E. LARGE.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY ANALYSIS.

Samples of water from the Stroud District Water Board mains and private supplies were submitted for Bacteriological examinations with the following results:-

Type of Sample	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Main Supply	5	5	—
Wells & Springs	16	5	11

Six houses have been connected to the main supply of the Stroud District Water Board.

SEWERAGE.

Main sewers are laid in the greater part of the following districts, Nailsworth, Newmarket, Forest Green, Shortwood, Harley Wood, but numbers of houses are not connected to the sewer, in most cases due to the difference in levels.

Parts of the district remaining unsewered are the Rockness Hill, Theescombe and Pinfarthings area.

The Septic Tank or Cesspool is therefore the most common method of drainage in these districts. No Cesspools have been emptied free of charge during the year. 13 have been emptied the owners paying the cost thereof to a total of £39.10.0d.

The 1951 Census stated that 127 of the houses within the district were not provided with a water closet.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The household refuse continues to be collected and disposed of by the Stroud Rural District Council, who maintain a satisfactory service. Unfortunately the breakdowns that do occur are usually over the holiday period.

There is no collection of night soil within the district, the disposal of which is left to the occupiers of the houses.

BUILDING OF NEW COUNCIL AND PRIVATE HOUSES.

No. of Council houses erected, 1955	...	...	—
No. of Private enterprise houses erected, 1955	...	...	7
		TOTAL.	7
No. of Council houses under construction 31/12/55			6
No. of Private enterprise houses under construction 31/12/55	...	...	6
		TOTAL:	12

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Dwelling houses inspected under the Housing Act and Public Health Act	...	...	...	123
Re-inspections of houses	...	...	...	90
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	16
Visits under Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951	...	...	...	1
Visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	215
Visits to food shops	...	...	...	31
Visits to cafes and restaurants	...	...	...	8
Visits to licensed premises	...	...	...	17
Visits to premises including ice cream premises, (Section 14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938)	...	...	...	9
Shops inspected under the Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	11
Visits to dairies, milkshops, etc.	...	...	...	8
Visits to Factories and Bakehouses	...	...	...	11
Visits to Theatres, Cinemas, places of entertainment	...	...	...	2
Visits to Schools	...	...	...	3
Visits to cases of infectious disease and food poisoning	...	...	...	5
Visits to Water Supplies	...	...	...	27
Visits re drainage	...	...	...	102
Visits to Petroleum stores	...	...	...	48
TOTAL.				727

All complaints received of unhygienic conditions were duly investigated and the necessary action taken to abate any nuisances found.

PREMISES OR OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CONTROL SHOPS

Number of premises	...	...	...	32
Number of inspections	...	...	...	11

PARTICULARS OF ACTION TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

- Under Shops Act, 1950 relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.
Number of notices served ... —
- Under Public Health Act, 1936
Number of notices served ... —

FOOD PREMISES UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Number of premises registered	...	...	...	18
New registrations during 1955	...	...	...	—
Number of inspections	...	...	...	11
Number of notices served	...	...	...	—

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of premises	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections	...	...	...	2
Number of notices served	...	...	...	—

PETROLEUM STORES.

Number of premises	...	...	...	16
Number of visits	...	...	...	48
Number of notices served	...	...	...	—

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

Number of premises	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections	...	...	...	8
Number of notices served	...	...	...	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Observations made	...	...	...	...	3
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	2
Number of notices served	...	...	...	...	—

HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health & Housing Acts)	123
Number of inspections and re-inspections made	90
Number of dwelling houses found to be in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation	3
Number of dwelling houses found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	8
Total number of dwelling houses inspected under the Housing Survey	305

INFORMAL ACTION DURING THE YEAR.

Number of houses made fit after service of informal or preliminary notices	3
--	---

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices (including notices served prior to 1st January, 1955)	
(i) By owners	—
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(i) By owners	3
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	1

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

RODENT CONTROL — FIGURE FOR 1955.

	Visits	Baits Laid	Poison baits laid
Sewers	64	32	—
Business Accounts	44	132	70
Private Dwellings	369	715	208
Miscellaneous	178	114	20
Local Authority	15	44	51
	670	1,037	349

It is regretted that owing to the arrangement with Stroud Urban District Council for the part-time services of the Rodent Operator, the district cannot be considered to be adequately covered during 3 weeks out of every month.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

The Bacon Factories at H. E. Smith (Woodchester) Ltd., and Hilliers Bacon Curing Company Limited have been visited on every occasion when notice is received that slaughtering has taken place.

Whenever possible Ante-Mortem inspections are made but due to the inadequacy of inspectoral staff no regular ante-mortem inspections can be made.

THE FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS MADE

						PIGS
No. killed	...	...	...	...	...	56,560
No. inspected	...	...	...	...	...	2,528
Percentage of the No. killed inspected by Qualified Inspector						4.46 %

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	163
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	217
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.				1.50 %

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcase condemned	...	...	...	35
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	1,959
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.				79 %

The following details indicate some of the diseases other than T.B. affecting animals slaughtered and examined at the Bacon Factories :-

Septiceamia,	Acute Pneumonia,	Acute Peritonitis,
Acute Swine Erysipelas,	Pyæmia,	Uraemia, Jaundice,
Melanosis,	Nephritis,	Bruising, Abscesses, Tumours.

It is regretted that owing to the very heavy rate of animals killed and the inadequate number of qualified inspectors the recommendations of Memo 3/ Meat are not being complied with. The Council were advised of this at their meeting on the 29th June, 1954, and at every meeting of the Public Health Committee.

Total weight of meat and organs (offal) condemned as unfit for human consumption 19 tons.

DAIRIES AND MILK RETAILERS.

There is one dairy other than farm dairies in the district. Eight visits have been made to ensure that the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations have been complied with.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 — REGULATION 20.

No action was taken during the year under this Regulation.

MILK SAMPLING BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Five samples were taken and submitted for animal inoculation to indicate the presence or absence of tubercle bacilli. All proved negative.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Tuberculin Tested Milk. Five samples of tuberculin tested milk were submitted for bacteriological analysis. All were satisfactory.

Bottle Rinses. One bottle rinse sample was taken, proving to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

Six samples were submitted for analysis, one of which was within the M.O.H. Grade 4. Immediate investigation was made and certain works instituted in an endeavour to improve the standard.

There is one firm registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream, and 11 registered for the storage and sale only of ice cream.

FOOD HYGIENE

The Council have not adopted the Byelaws as to handling food etc. but advice has been given to several shopkeepers on the need for hygienic food handling.

OTHER FOOD.

The food shops in the town have been visited as often as possible to ensure that the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act are being carried out, and the following quantities of food have been condemned during the year :-

Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	404 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	...	...	...	...	62 lbs.
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	...	66 lbs.
Canned Milk	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Canned Fish	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
TOTAL.					541 lbs.

It is regretted that owing to the arrangement with Stroud Urban District Council for the part-time services of the Rodent Operator, the district cannot be considered to be adequately covered during 3 weeks out of every month.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

The Bacon Factories at H. E. Smith (Woodchester) Ltd., and Hilliers Bacon Curing Company Limited have been visited on every occasion when notice is received that slaughtering has taken place.

Whenever possible Ante-Mortem inspections are made but due to the inadequacy of inspectoral staff no regular ante-mortem inspections can be made.

THE FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS MADE

						PIGS
No. killed	...	...	...	...	...	56,560
No. inspected	...	...	...	...	...	2,528
Percentage of the No. killed inspected by Qualified Inspector						4.46%

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	163
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	217
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.				1.50%

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcase condemned	...	...	...	35
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	1,959
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.				79%

The following details indicate some of the diseases other than T.B. affecting animals slaughtered and examined at the Bacon Factories :-

Septiceamia,	Acute Pneumonia,	Acute Peritonitis,
Acute Swine Erysipelas,	Pyæmia,	Uraemia, Jaundice,
Melanosis,	Nephritis,	Bruising, Abscesses, Tumours.

It is regretted that owing to the very heavy rate of animals killed and the inadequate number of qualified inspectors the recommendations of Memo 3/ Meat are not being complied with. The Council were advised of this at their meeting on the 29th June, 1954, and at every meeting of the Public Health Committee.

Total weight of meat and organs (offal) condemned as unfit for human consumption 19 tons.

DAIRIES AND MILK RETAILERS.

There is one dairy other than farm dairies in the district. Eight visits have been made to ensure that the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations have been complied with.

Stroud Urban District Council

Chairman :

E. W. MASON, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

T. JOHN, Esq., J.P.

Clerk of the Council :

H. S. GIBBONS, Esq.

Councillors :

G. V. Askew, Esq.
H. G. Bullock, Esq.
T. B. Cameron, Esq.
H. B. Cooke, Esq.
F. W. Daniels, Esq.
H. L. Dean, Esq.
Mrs. L. M. Fern
J. Flynn, Esq., C.C.

H. H. Forster, Esq.
N. F. W. Gibson, Esq., J.P.
Mrs. P. E. Parker
O. H. Phillips, Esq.
W. K. Preston, Esq., J.P.
T. Strange, Esq.
W. E. Thomas, Esq., M.B.E.
A. M. Weston, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

W. DAVIDSON-LAMB, M.C., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. to 31/5/55
W. J. DOUGLAS COOPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H., from 1/9/55

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

G. G. CRITCHLEY, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

First Additional Sanitary Inspector :

D. A. DOLPHIN, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Second Additional Sanitary Inspector :

L. G. NORMAN, M.S.I.A., S.R.N.

Third Additional Sanitary Inspector :

E. G. RAWLINGS, M.S.I.A.

Pupil Assistants :

W. L. FISHER, D. F. M. LODGE.

Rodent Officer : H. H. GOODINGS.

Public Health Department Clerk : Mrs. M. J. COOPER

PART 1.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	2,779
Population (1951 Census)	15,977
Population (Registrar General 1955)	16,030
Estimated number of inhabited houses	5,034
Rateable value (as at 1.4.55.)	£101,952
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£408

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF
POPULATION (GLOUCESTERSHIRE) AT MID 1955

URBAN :

Charlton Kings U.D.	6,160
Cheltenham M.B.	67,730
Cirencester U.D.	11,820
Kingswood U.D.	19,490
Mangotsfield U.D.	19,280
Nailsworth U.D.	3,710
Stroud U.D.	16,030
Tewkesbury M.B.	5,380
TOTAL U.D.	149,600

RURAL :

Cheltenham R.D.	25,970
Cirencester R.D.	17,580
Dursley R.D.	17,140
East Dean R.D.	20,630
Gloucester R.D.	40,490
Lydney R.D.	12,090
Newent R.D.	8,270
North Cotswold R.D.	20,500
Northleach R.D.	8,120
Sodbury R.D.	39,610
Stroud R. D.	27,170
Tetbury R.D.	7,010
Thornbury R.D.	25,940
Warmley R.D.	11,390
West Dean R.D.	17,890
TOTAL R.D.	299,800

Administrative County **449,400**

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	96	117	213
Illegitimate	4	7	11
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 mid 1955 population			13.28
Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 Civilian Population	...	...	15.0
Comparability Factor for Births	...	...	1.03
Therefore Birth Rate (Comparable)	...	...	13.67

STILL BIRTHS

	M	F	Total
	6	4	10
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 mid year population			0.62
Still Birth Rate, England & Wales, per 1,000 Civilian Population	...	...	0.35
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	...	44.8
Still Births (per 1,000 Live and Still Births England and Wales)	...	...	23 2

DEATHS.

42 Deaths that were registered within the Urban District were transferred to other Areas for purposes of Annual Death Statistics. These deaths mostly occurred within the Stroud General Hospital and were transferred to the areas in which their homes were situated.

Deaths occurring in the District	...	...	...	131
69 of these were Males and 62 Females.				
Average Age of Male Deaths taking place within the district (years)	...	...	...	68.74
Average Age of Female Deaths taking place within the district (years)	...	...	...	66.74
Average Age of all Deaths taking place with the district (years)	...	...	...	67.78
Total Deaths in District	...	...	...	177
89 of these were Males and 88 Females				
Average Age of all Male Deaths in the district (years)				66.49
Average Age of all Female Deaths in the district (yrs.)				64.18
AVERAGE AGE OF DEATH FOR THE DISTRICT. (years)				65.3
Death Rate, England & Wales, per 1,000 Civilian Population	...	...	...	11.7
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 mid year population				11.04
Comparability Factor for Deaths		...	...	0.86
Therefore Death Rate (Comparable)		...	...	9.4

Deaths occurring without the district and transferred back for purposes of Annual Death Statistics	...	...	...	46
20 of these were Males and 26 Females				
Average Age of Male Transferable Deaths (years)	...	...	...	58.7
Average Age of Female Transferable Deaths (years)	...	...	...	58.0
Average Age of all Transferable Deaths (years)	...	...	...	58.3

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	M	F	Total
	1	5	6
Legitimate	1	5	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE.

	M	F	Total
	—	4	4
Legitimate	—	4	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—

NUMBER OF DEATHS OF ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS PER 1,000 ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	...	...	...	—
INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 Live Births)	...	...	...	28.1

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

Female	5 days	Bilateral Supranenal Haemorrhage
Female	4 days	Haemorrhagic Disease of Newborn.
Female	1 month	Septicaemia & Congenital Heart Disease
Male	4 months	Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida.
Female	6 days	Congenital Heart Disease.
Female	1 day	Prematurity.

CAUSES OF DEATHS

Causes of Deaths		Under								Total
		1 yr.	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-	
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, Lung and bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	—	—	—	—	3	4	3	2	12
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
16.	Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	11	21
18.	Coronary disease, angina	—	—	—	—	—	11	9	9	29
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	6
20.	Other heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	11	6	24	41
21.	Other circulatory disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3
22.	Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4
24.	Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	3	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	8
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1	—	—	1	2	3	3	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	4
35.	Suicide	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	3
36.	Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
										177

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS

Year	Population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1952	15,977	198	10.54	203	13.04	29.6
1953	15,977	170	9.02	224	14.4	4.47
1954	15,977	163	8.74	220	14.13	31.82
1955	16,030	177	9.4	213	13.67	28.1

LONGEVITY TABLE DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS AND SEX

Age Group	Males	Females	Total
0 - 1 years	1	5	6
1 - 5 years	1	1	2
5 - 10 years	1	—	1
10 - 20 years	—	—	—
20 - 30 years	3	—	3
30 - 40 years	—	2	2
40 - 50 years	3	7	10
50 - 60 years	17	14	31
60 - 70 years	12	15	27
70 - 80 years	33	19	52
80 - 90 years	16	22	38
90-100 years	2	3	5
	89	88	177

MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR :-

Heart Disease (including Coronary Thrombosis)	= 79 cases
Cancer	= 25 cases
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	= 21 cases
Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases	= 12 cases
Congenital Malformations	= 8 cases

DEATHS IN HOSPITALS

Delancey Hospital, Cheltenham	...	...	3
Standish House Hospital, Stonehouse	...	...	1
Royal Hospital, Gloucester	...	...	35
City Maternity Hospital, Gloucester	...	...	1
Carshalton Memorial Hospital	...	...	1
London Hospital	...	...	1
Stroud General Hospital	...	...	24
			66

Therefore 66 of the 177 deaths in the District occurred in Hospitals — approximately 32%.

CANCER DEATHS.

There were 25 cancer deaths during the year :-

Cancer of the Stomach	...	...	...	2 cases
Cancer of the Lung	...	...	...	5 cases
Cancer of the Breast	...	...	...	4 cases
Cancer of the Uterus	...	...	...	2 cases
Cancer, Other sites	...	...	...	12 cases

TOTAL. 25 cases

MONTHS OF THE YEAR IN WHICH DEATHS TOOK PLACE.

Month	Deaths that occurred within the District	Deaths that occurred in hospital or while temporarily resident outside	Total
January	23	5	28
February	11	4	15
March	17	9	26
April	12	4	16
May	4	1	5
June	8	5	13
July	14	2	16
August	5	5	10
September	8	2	10
October	10	3	13
November	10	1	11
December	9	5	14
	<hr/> 131	<hr/> 46	<hr/> 177

Therefore the worst months for deaths during 1955 were January and March with the best month being May.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table gives details of notifications received during the year:-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS, 1955

<i>Disease</i>	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-5 years	6-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-34 years	35-44 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Age Unknown	<i>Total</i>
Whooping Cough	6	8	6	13	25	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	88
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	5
Measles	6	42	57	64	153	200	10	—	3	1	—	—	—	536
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	4	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	11
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
														<hr/> TOTAL: 650 <hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES

M	F	Total
7	9	16

DEATHS

M	F	Total
1	—	1

Of the 16 new cases, 12 were pulmonary, 1 sacro iliac joint, 1 erythema nodosum, 1 spine and 1 pleura. Eleven cases were admitted to Standish Chest Hospital and three tuberculous patients were re-housed during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

In July the Mass Radiography Unit again visited The Armoury, Merrywalks, when 3233 persons (1855 Males and 1378 Females) were examined. Included in the total figure were 762 schoolchildren (482 Males and 280 Females).

From the total of 3233 persons examined, 5 cases of active tuberculosis were diagnosed, 6 inactive, and 9 significant cases were placed under observation. 11 cases of non-tuberculous conditions were also discovered as a result of X-ray examination. One schoolboy under the age of 15 was found to be suffering from active tuberculosis and another boy in the same age group from inactive tuberculosis.

Earlier in the year the Unit visited three factories in the area, when a total of 920 persons were examined and it is pleasing to record that no tuberculous conditions were found.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following Immunisations and Vaccinations have been carried out within the District during 1955 by General Practitioners and Local Authority Doctors:-

NO. OF CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF PRIMARY IMMUNISATION								
	Under 1 Year	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years	Total
G.P.	20(13)	46(5)	7	1	—	2	—	77(18)
L.A.	24	20	3	1	2	31	1	82

NO. OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED A RE-INFORCING DOSE								
G.P.	—	—	—	—	—	14	5	19
L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	196	66	262

Note—Figures in brackets denote combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough injections included in totals.

VACCINATION					
Under 1 Year	1 Year	2-4 Years	5-14 Years	15 Years or over	Total
42	7	1	2	5	57

RE-VACCINATION					
—	—	—	6	17	23

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION				
Born	1955	1954	1953	1952
G.P.	1	1	1	—
L.A.	3	9	1	1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

No cases arose during the year calling for action under this Act.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

I have pleasure in submitting a meteorological report for 1955, and would like to express my thanks to Mr. W. A. Sibley, Wycliffe College, for providing the following information.

Month	Rainfall in inches.	Number of Days on which rain measured.	Mean of maximum temperatures (in screen)	Mean of minimum temperatures (in screen)	Mean Air Temperature for month.	Hours of Sunshine.	
January	2.81	18	43°	32°	37.5°	34.5	
February	1.82	8	41°	30°	35.5°	66.6	
March	1.61	8	46°	31°	38.5°	146	
April	.73	7	59°	42°	50.5°	165	
May	4.23	17	58°	43°	50.5°	183.7	
June	3.62	12	65°	51°	58°	128.4	
July	1.44	2	75°	54°	64.5°	300	
August	.26	6	76°	56°	66°	182	
September	.71	10	67°	50°	58.5°	156.4	
October	1.29	8	57°	41°	49°	116.4	
November	2.76	9	50°	39°	44.5°	51	
December	2.88	20	49°	37°	43°	32	
Totals	24.16	125 days on which .01 or more was measured. Mean Air Temperature for 365 days and nights was practically 50°					1559 hours

SOME GENERAL COMMENTS :-

The warmest days were 22nd and 23rd August, with 87° in the shade.

The first three months (especially February and March) were unusually cool, with 48 frosts in the air. (63 air frosts in the whole year). April was unusually warm and May unusually cool. July and August were exceptionally warm, with 53 days on which the maximum exceeded 70°, and 14 days on which it was over 80°. Total number of days in which temperature exceeded 70° in the whole summer was 70.

The year as a whole was sunnier than usual, the 300 hours in July making this the sunniest month for many years. February, March, April, July, August, September and October, were all drier than usual, and only May and June were exceptionally wet.

PART II.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for 1955.

At the beginning of the year the main task confronting the Department, apart from routine duties, was to carry out a housing survey under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. It had not been possible to commence the survey earlier due to lack of staff, so that the work had to be completed in approximately seven months. It was decided to maintain a 100% meat inspection service and reluctantly to curtail other essential and necessary duties.

Since the war the amount of new legislation in the public health field has been formidable and staff has not been available to carry such legislation into effect efficiently. A Working Party on the Recruitment, Training and Qualification of Sanitary Inspectors, was set up by the Minister of Health in June, 1951. The report appeared in 1953 but to date the only recommendation implemented has been the setting up of a new Examination Board. It appears to me that until there is a national scheme of paid pupillage for new entrants to the profession, and a change of designation, the acute shortage will continue.

Looking to the future there is scope for a vast amount of public health work. This will include eradication of unfit houses, food hygiene, Shops and Factories Act work, atmospheric pollution, and, above all, regular general inspections of the district.

The present feeling is one of frustration—frustration at not being able to carry out all the duties that one knows are essential. It is earnestly hoped that the general position will soon show a marked improvement.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman, the Chairman of the Health Committee and all members of the Council for their interest and realistic help during the year. I also wish to record my appreciation of the Health Department staff for the splendid manner in which they tackled the work during a particularly busy year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. G. CRITCHLEY

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ADMINISTRATION.

Since 1946 there appears to have been a general stepping up in the number of inquiries, both personal and by telephone, in the Public Health Department. A percentage of these prove to be of a general nature and not confined to public health in the strict sense, but a large number are from members of the public requiring advice. These proved particularly heavy during 1955 following the coming into operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and the subsequent housing survey.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Dwelling houses inspected under the Housing Act and Public Health Act	...	...	...	1730
Re-inspections of houses	...	...	...	930
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	770
Visits under Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951	...	...	...	1
Visits to slaughterhouses	..	..	...	2,655
Visits to food shops	...	...	...	118
Visits to cafes and restaurants	...	...	...	22
Visits to licensed premises	...	...	...	15
Visits to premises including ice cream premises (Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938)	...	...	...	42
Shops inspected under the Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	13
Visits to dairies, milkshops, etc.	...	...	...	54
Visits to factories and bakehouses	...	...	...	104
Visits to theatres, cinemas, places of entertainment	...	...	...	18
Visits to schools	...	...	...	6
Visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	20
Visits to water supplies	...	...	...	21
Visits re. drainage	...	...	...	510
Visits to petroleum stores	...	...	...	195
Total number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	7,224

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH RODENT CONTROL. ... 3,281

All complaints received of unhygienic conditions were duly investigated and the necessary action taken to abate any nuisances found.

PREMISES OR OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CONTROL

SHOPS

Number of premises	...	...	...	133
Number of inspections	...	...	...	13

PARTICULARS OF ACTION TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

1. Under Shops Act, 1950, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences

Number of notices served	3
--------------------------	-----	-----	---
2. Under Public Health Act, 1936:

Number of notices served	2
--------------------------	-----	-----	---

FOOD PREMISES UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Number of premises registered	...	...	...	77
New registrations during 1955	...	...	...	4
Number of inspections	...	...	...	42
Number of notices served	...	...	...	11

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of premises	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections	...	...	...	4
Number of notices served	...	...	...	—

PETROLEUM STORES.

Number of premises	...	...	...	63
Number of visits	...	...	...	195
Number of notices served	...	...	...	16

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

Number of Premises	...	...	...	9
Number of inspections	...	...	...	54
Number of notices served	...	...	...	1

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Observations made	...	...	...	24
Complaints received	...	...	...	7
Number of notices served	...	...	...	6

HOUSING

Following the completion of the Housing Survey, it was estimated that 374 houses within the district were unfit within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

The first clearance area was represented to the Health Committee in December, 1955, whilst during the year 28 individual houses were dealt with by means of Closing Orders.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health and Housing Acts)	1730
Number of inspections and re-inspections made	930
Number of dwelling houses found to be in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation	59
Number of unfit houses demolished	—
Number of unfit houses closed	28
Number of unfit houses rendered fit as a result of informal action.	20
Number of unfit houses rendered fit as a result of statutory action.	11

BUILDING OF NEW COUNCIL AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HOUSES.

No. of council houses erected 1955	136
No. of council flats erected 1955	21
No. of private enterprise houses erected 1955	74

TOTAL: 231

No. of council houses under construction 31/12/55	16
No. of council flats under construction 31/12/55	7
No. of Private Enterprise houses under construction 31/12/55.	55
	<hr/>
TOTAL:	78
	<hr/>

INSPECTIONS OF PREMISES IN RESPECT OF COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS.

Number of visits	218
------------------	-----

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 —

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of applications received	—
Number of certificates issued	—

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The Council's public abattoir and Messrs Smith Rogers' bacon factory were in use for the slaughtering of animals for human consumption during the year.

It was found necessary for two officers of the Department to be on duty from 7.30 a.m. daily at the bacon factory and for one officer to be on duty evenings up to 7 p.m. or 7.30 p.m., Sunday mornings and most Bank Holidays, at the Abattoir.

Despite this it is pleasing to record that the meat inspection service was maintained at an efficient level with a 100% examination entailing some 800 animals weekly.

EBLEY ABATTOIR

The Cotswold Wholesale Meat Co. Ltd. continued to lease these premises from the Council and slaughtering proceeded smoothly throughout the year. In the early part of 1955 adequate cold storage facilities were provided and this constituted a first class improvement.

Although the percentage of cows affected with tuberculosis showed a further increase, it can be said that Ebley Abattoir received far more cows under the Tuberculosis Order than in previous years. It is worthy of note that whereas in 1954 out of 895 cows slaughtered and examined 37 whole carcasses were condemned because of generalised tuberculosis, the corresponding figures in 1955 were 864 cows slaughtered and 12 carcasses condemned.

It is also gratifying to record that of 459 calves slaughtered, none was found to be suffering from tuberculosis.

TABLE SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF COWS SLAUGHTERED AT EBLEY ABATTOIR AFFECTED WITH TUBERCULOSIS.

1949	40.80%	1952	19.05%
1950	37.42%	1953	18.32%
1951	28.75%	1954	26.15%
	1955	27.89%	

SMITH ROGERS & CO. LTD. — BACON FACTORY.

The number of pigs slaughtered and dressed in 1955 showed a decrease compared with 1954, this being a general trend in bacon factories throughout the country. Figures for the past six years are as follows:-

1950	—	14,300
1951	—	16,372
1952	—	30,611
1953	—	33,217
1954	—	40,546
1955	—	34,390

ANTE MORTEM INSPECTION.

Wherever possible, ante mortem inspection of animals awaiting slaughter was carried out, particularly in the case of casualty animals brought direct to the slaughterhouse.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed	1938	864	459	6101	34390
No. inspected	1938	864	459	6101	34390
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	4	8	13	41
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	739	378	7	406	4375
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	38.39	44.21	3.27	6.87	12.84
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	12	—	—	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	147	229	—	—	1332
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	7.74	27.89	—	—	3.91
CYSTICERCOSIS.					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	16	3	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	16	3	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat and organs (offal) condemned as unfit for human consumption: 30tons 18 cwt.

The following details indicate some of the diseases, other than Tuberculosis, affecting animals slaughtered and examined at the Abattoir:-

CATTLE.

Actinobacillosis,	Uraemia,	Septicaemia,	Dropsy,
Cysticercus Bovis.	Nephritis,	Pyæmia,	Enteritis.
Gangrenous Pleurisy.			

CALVES.

Immaturity, Umbilical Pyaemia, Enteritis.

SHEEP.

Toxaemia, Pyaemia, Septicaemia.

PIGS.

Acute Swine Erysipelas, Gangrenous Pneumonia,
Bowel Oedema, Leukaemia.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS.

19 cases were found in 1955, 15 being heifers, 1 steer and 3 cows.

Of the 19 cases, viable cysts were present in 5 heifers only, the remainder being degenerated.

The total again shows a decrease compared with previous years, as the following table indicates :-

COMPARATIVE PERCENTAGES FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

1951	—	3.78 %
1952	—	2.89 %
1953	—	2.60 %
1954	—	1.23 %
1955	—	0.68 %

OTHER FOODS

The following quantities of other foods have been condemned during the year :-

43 lbs. poultry.
72 fish cakes
86 pkts. frozen fish
62 tins potato crisps and biscuits.
5 baskets watercress.
51 lbs. bacon
52 lbs. ham, tongue and cooked meats
10 lbs. sausages.
50 meat pies.
353 tins meat products
133 lbs. wet fish.
95 tins. fish products.
522 tins. fruit and preserves.
18 lbs. dried fruit.
633 tins. vegetables
117 tins, milk and cream
303 tins/pkts. cereals, sweetened foods and flavouring & compounds
104 lbs cheese
141 lbs. confectionery
30 lbs. fats.

MILK

Being a Specified Area tuberculin tested and pasteurised milk only were on sale in the district. To date no sterilised milk has been introduced into the urban area.

The Specified Area scheme has continued to operate well and all parts of the district have had adequate supplies.

Some difficulty was experienced due to retailers collecting milk during the afternoon from the central depot and storing it either in delivery vans or in unsuitable premises prior to delivery the following morning. Steps were taken to stop this practice and now all retailers collect milk on the morning of delivery from the central depot or alternatively refrigerate it under suitable conditions on their own premises.

DAIRIES AND MILK RETAILERS.

There are 9 dairies other than farm dairies in the district. 54 visits have been made to ensure that the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations have been complied with.

There are on the register, 20 retail purveyors of milk, compared with 18 in 1954. Of the 20, 15 use premises in the Urban District.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 — REGULATION 20.

No action was taken during the year under this Regulation.

MILK SAMPLING.

Due to staff shortages very little sampling was carried out.

BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Eight samples were taken and submitted for animal inoculation to indicate the present or absence of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus. All proved negative.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK.

One sample was submitted and passed the official test.

PASTEURISED MILK.

Three samples of pasteurised milk have been taken, all satisfying the standard tests.

INFORMAL COMPOSITIONAL SAMPLING.

No informal compositional sampling has been carried out.

ICE CREAM.

Due to lack of available staff no samples of ice cream were taken during the year.

There are five firms registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream, and 55 registered for the storage and sale only of ice cream.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Again I regret to report that inspection of restaurants and food shops was inadequate.

It should be repeated however that the general public can help to a considerable extent in ensuring a high standard of food hygiene. If any undesirable practice is taking place complaints can be made direct to the management or alternatively brought to the Health Department. Complaints reported to the Health Department are always investigated forthwith.

WATER SUPPLY ANALYSIS

Samples of water from the town supplies, swimming pools and wells, were submitted for chemical and bacteriological analysis, with the following results: -

Type of Sample	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Main Supply	12	11	1
Main Swimming Pool	2	2	—
Children's Swimming Pool	2	2	—
Wells and Springs	12	1	11

The unsatisfactory sample from the main supply was due to insufficient chlorination. As soon as the result was received the Engineer to the Stroud District Water Board arranged for the chlorine to be increased and a follow up sample proved satisfactory.

With regard to the unsatisfactory wells and springs the majority of properties served by them have now been connected to main supplies. In one or two isolated instances a main supply has not been available but improvements have been effected and the bacteriological condition of the water is now reasonably safe.

SEWERAGE

Main sewers were laid and completed at Bowbridge and Cainscross Road in the year under review. Although it is realised that the work involved is sometimes costly it is hoped that all owners of properties in these areas at present draining to cess-pits and septic tanks will take advantage of the new facilities by connecting to the mains.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

RODENT CONTROL — FIGURES FOR 1955.

	Visits	Baits Laid	Poison Baits Laid
Sewers	288	192	65
Local Authority properties	75	794	351
Business firms with agreements	524	1104	525
Business firms without agreements	317	1111	528
Private dwellings	1196	2155	919
Miscellaneous	881	285	82
TOTALS	3281	5641	2470

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	No of Premises	Inspections	No. of Notices	Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	15	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	139	89	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	161	104	7	—

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	7	—	—

OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel. Making, etc.	13	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	13	—	—	—	—	—

*Printed by H. E. ILES,
"The Central Press"
49b Downend Road,
KINGSWOOD, Bristol*
